

THE PINK

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65p

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Daily Echo

The big task facing new Saints boss Claude ...

see pages 6 and 7



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NEW BOY NATHAN



His life and times - see pages 8-13

PELLE'S GUNNING FOR EURO GLORY

SAINT AIMS TO KNOCK WORLD CHAMPS OUT

GRAZIANO Pelle is aiming to become the third Saints star into the semi-finals of Euro 2016 to-night when Italy face Germany in the tournament's last-eight.

St Mary's duo Jose Fonte and Cedric Soares played an influential part for Portugal as they became the first team through to the last-four with a

penalty shootout victory over Poland.

Now it's up to striker Pelle and the Azzurri to beat world champions Germany at Nouveau Stade in Bordeaux.

Certainly, history is on the towering striker's side because the Germans have lost all knockout tournament matches against Italy stretching back to 1970.

● Continued on page 2

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Saints ace Pelle out to add to his Euro 2016 goals tally

from front page

Pelle has had an excellent tournament so far, with two late goals to his name.

One of them came in the group stages in a 2-0 win over Belgium, before netting another against reigning European champions Spain in the quarter-finals.

His impact for Italy has given Saints plenty of food for thought, with Pelle expected to leave St Mary's this summer before his contract expires next summer.

Several Serie A clubs have been linked, while a move to Stoke and a reunion with Ronald Koeman at Everton has also been speculated about.

New Saints manager Claude Puel will have to assess whether or not Pelle is a player he is keen to keep, especially with 15-goal Sadio Mane leaving for Liverpool recently.

Misunderstood

The former Feyenoord striker netted 13 goals last season and represents one of the club's best goal-threats along with Shane Long.

Although, Pelle turns 31 next month, while his streaky form and an irritable knee meant Saints only saw his best in fits and starts last term.

Certainly, Italy legend Christian Vieri, the former Inter Milan, AC Milan, Atletico Madrid and Juventus man, believes that Pelle is misunderstood and should not be underestimated.

He said: "Pelle was exceptional against Spain. He played for the team, he really did. Sometimes those who don't understand very much about football use the term 'generous' for players who only do two or three useful things for the team.

"But Pelle played wholly in service of his team. Thanks to him, all of the departments played well. His work with his back to the goal was fantastic, controlling the ball with his chest and his head, and holding it when he had it in his feet. That's the kind of thing that allowed the defence and the midfield to breathe.

"He also favoured the runs of the midfielders by playing one-twos, sometimes with his head. Eder himself was allowed dash into space.

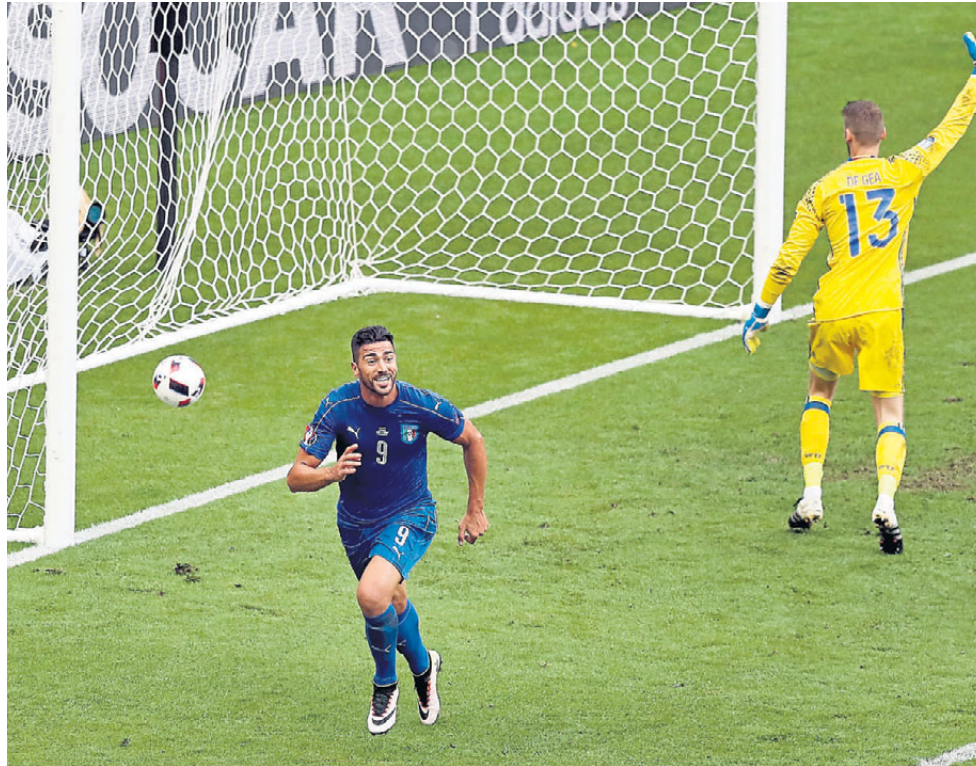
"Pelle picked up seven long balls out of every eight, and he was always alongside his teammates when they were struggling.

"When you have a guy like that in the team, your defence will never struggle.

Identical

"You can get the ball out of the defence even more quickly because you always have a point of reference up there who is capable of receiving the ball or creating space, all the while opening passing lanes for his comrades. I mean people [who can dash into space] like [Manuele] Giaccherini, [Marco] Parolo, [Antonio] Candreva or [Alessandro] Florenzi, just to be clear.

"Plus he scored twice, in two episodes that were almost identical. He was able to close on his chance, he's big and he's brave. He fears no-one,



Graziano Pelle wheels away after firing Italy's clincher against Spain.



Graziano Pelle celebrates after scoring his side's second goal against Spain.

and these are days when you meet players who are real beasts, so you must know how to command respect.

"Pelle took care of two giants like Sergio Ramos and [Gerard] Pique all on his own.

"In brief, he exploits his qualities to the utmost.

"He's not a player for the counter,

he must be used exactly the way Conte is using him.

"Not all great strikers know how to play with their backs to the goal.

"A player like that, who is willing to learn, can be asked to keep on learning all the way until he's 35.

"I used to be eyed with doubt because of my technical 'roughness',

but to the end of my career I always kept expecting more of myself.

Improve

"You can improve at every age, and those who stop can't go anywhere."

Perhaps Vieri's comments will help Saints make a decision over Pelle's future.

Mane sale good business?

SADIO Mane left Saints this week to sign for Liverpool. Here are a selection of Saints fans' views posted on the Echo's Facebook page.

What really disappoints me ... is that the club are now showing its true colours... even without a manager it seems the clubs stance is to sell our best players now I'm thinking RK may have seen the light and moved because he knew what was to come very disappointed. Barry Rose

This is a good move for us...£30million for Mane...the guy has been mostly good for us but he can be inconsistent and we've signed Redmond who is a great replacement with £20m to go and spend. Too many fans moan about the clubs ambition yet each year we improve...sit down, shut up and wait to see what next season brings us! Shane Dack

Who next?, who has two years left on their contract and will be sold for pittance next season, really a complete joke! although I'm hoping that waryama and mane are the last of the players who weren't committed to the club but I bet I'm wrong. Daniel Lowth

Why is anyone complaining? We've just sold two of our 3 most inconsistent players from the last two seasons and now have money to get better replacements, proven year on year that we can keep finding them on a budget. It's nothing different from the last 3 seasons and there's been positive improvements each year! Chris Mitchener

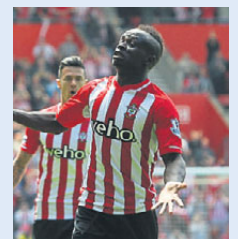
I actually agree with selling Mane. I would rather us get £30m+ now than convince ourselves he'll sign soon and then sell for £10m next season. Unfortunately it seems that our board aren't strong enough in selling the club to some players and whether this is right or wrong players will always look for greener grass. Daniel Taylor

A shame but good business. It's just getting stupid that we have to rebuild every year. Graham Snelgar

Good deal he only turns up once a month and that's when he's not late. Thanks again Liverpool we have your Suarez money now you are giving us your Stirling money for another under performing player. Ian Morris

34-36 million pounds for a player that only got 11 goals last season and goes missing for half a year, pretty good. Josh Walsh-Oakes.

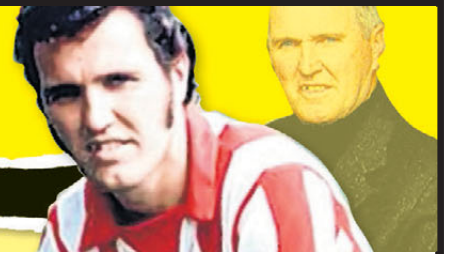
That's just another player who did not want to stay here, and we sold him for 3x higher than we bought from Salzburg. Good business imo Southampton FC Turkey



Sadio Mane.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



Resignation was only thing Roy could offer

AT the final whistle on Monday evening, Roy Hodgson could hear the words of Frank Sinatra resonating in his head – “And now the end is near, as I face the final curtain.”

Resignation was all “Woy” could offer.

Drained, disbelieving, quizzical and dumb-founded looks were all the players could offer, but nothing will erase the embarrassment for our nation of losing to Iceland – the Leicester City of the Euros.

It really is the season of the underdog.

There will be plenty of excuses doing the rounds after the latest England debacle and one of them will be tiredness.

After such a long season in the Premier League, Europe and the qualifying games, you could stand back and accept that fatigue played its part.

However, most of us would find it hard to accept such a thought, as we grind through our eight, 10, 12-hour days for five or six days a week and keep that going month after month.

If anyone could be acceptably tired, you might point to Harry Kane, who despite his protestations, is/was exhausted.

Look at that free kick late on against Iceland that went nowhere near the goal and only troubled the fifth official as he scrambled out of the way.

That was a tired, “I’m shot” kind of effort.

Kane played all last season after only two weeks off from the previous year and an U-21 tournament in between.

Others have had longer periods of recovery and we can trot out the old adage of how long they train for and how many times a week they play, but that is an old argument, though relevant.

Demise

England’s true demise was down to Roy Hodgson, his backroom staff and their dismal and ineffective strategies.

Other players and other teams have had equally long and arduous seasons, but they have a game plan. Even Iceland stuck rigidly to their 4-4-2 formation at all times, as the out of shape, out of ideas, out of the inspiration England team showed a distinct lack of anything.

What hurt the nation was the inescapable lack of passion, commitment and hunger from very good individuals, but collectively a team of strangers.

Hodgson’s selection was always brave, and in some instances, correct. However, the defence was a concern and throughout the tournament it was never really properly tested. Who knows what would have happened had we played Italy or Germany. Perhaps the Icelandic team saved us from further humiliation – if that was at all possible.



Roy Hodgson during a press conference in France after England were humiliated in the Euros by Iceland

Another old argument may also raise its head, as the Premier League employs more foreign managers and more foreign players. Are we now seeing the effect on the nations team once and for all?

Loyalty

The new manager, whomever that may be, will have to look not only at the tactics, but some of the playing staff.

We can question all day long why Hodgson

took certain individuals, when others were available and were clearly better options. Players that hadn’t played very much, others just back from injury and others out of form went to France out of loyalty from Hodgson, but loyalty, as we now know, does not win you tournaments.

There were a decent selection that did play all season, did perform, had the best seasons of their careers, but sat at home and were grateful not to be a part of the

humbling from so-called lesser teams.

Those players may now get their chances and under a new manager increased optimism may evolve.

Optimism is always tinged with realism as an England fan, as we may go on for years qualifying like a hurricane only to leave the finals like a puff of smoke.

However, after two European exits inside a week, now is the time to lay low and look forward to our domestic season.

Newcastle sign winger Matt Ritchie

NEWCASTLE United have confirmed the signing of winger Matt Ritchie from Premier League side AFC Bournemouth.

Ritchie, 25, has agreed a five-year contract after the two clubs agreed a fee, reported to be around £10 million, for the Scotland international.

It has been a busy day of transfer activity at St James' Park with the Magpies also signing striker Dwight Gayle from Crystal Palace, also for a reported fee of £10 million, and Andros Townsend moving in the opposite direction after the London club met the £13 million release clause in his contract.

"It's an unbelievable feeling to come to a football club like this," Ritchie said.

"I loved it at Bournemouth - I had a fantastic time there and it had a huge impact on my career. But when a club like Newcastle comes calling, I couldn't pass up this opportunity.

"It's fantastic to be here and I'm really looking forward to the challenge of getting the club back in the Premier League."

Bournemouth are understood to have rejected a bid from West Ham last month for Gosport-born Ritchie, who completed his Newcastle medical on Thursday night.

He was a near ever-present player for



Moving on: Cherries' Matt Ritchie and Sadio Mane of Saints Bournemouth last season, the club's first in the Premier League, scoring four goals in 37 appearances, while he netted 15 for Eddie Howe's side as they won promotion from the Sky Bet Championship in the previous campaign.

He progressed through Portsmouth's academy and had loan spells at Dagenham, Notts County and Swindon before sealing a permanent move to the latter in January 2011.

Bournemouth paid Swindon £400,000 for Ritchie in January 2013 and he scored 31 goals in a total of 142 appearances for the Dorset club.

Newcastle boss Rafael Benitez added: "We have been following some wingers for a while and Matt was one of the best prospects for this team.

"He has great ability and pace, and as soon as we knew that Andros Townsend could be leaving, our priority was to finalise this deal.

"We have signed an exciting winger who has experience in the Championship but has also proved that he can step up to the top level.

"I am delighted that he is now part of our squad."

Ritchie is Newcastle's third summer signing following the arrival of Gayle and goalkeeper Matz Sels, signed from Belgian side Gent for a reported fee of £4.5 million on Wednesday.

Claude Puel: What

CLAUDE Puel was this week appointed Saints' latest manager.

As usual, fans were quick to take to the internet to have their say.

Here is a selection of comments from the Daily Echo website daily-echo.co.uk

Log on now to have your say on all the big Saints stories.

Only negative is why only 3 year deal, why not 5?

s@int Matt

I was going to ask the same exact question myself. If the club think this is the man, then why not stick you colours to the mast and give the bloke a 5 year deal?

NewForestStu

Because managers aren't like players. They are more expendable and have little to no resale value. If it doesn't work out, we have to terminate his contract and pay up the remainder. If it doesn't work with a player, we sell them!

nothingimportanttosay

I hope the board has learnt it's lesson and that, if he settles quickly and they feel he is doing all they expect of him, we look to extend the deal by a further two years within the first six to 12 months. That would be my approach. Not sure you can offer anything longer than three years without seeing the bloke in action - tempts fate if nothing else.

SaintJD

Let it be "Claude Saints into a Champions League position" and not "Claude cuckoo Land! " Bienvenue Monsieur Puel

angiemill

Well done Saints. If he plays the Southampton way and will give the likes of Harry Reed and our talented youth a chance to shine that's fine by me. What's the point of a great academy if you don't use it. Welcome to the best run club in England Claude.

matts granddad

Yeah strange. Eric Black was successful in guiding Villa to relegation. I suppose, he has been brought in to guide the saints to ...? Why was Sammy Lee let go? Wholesale backroom changes, team changes... one of these seasons we will be found out.

AlphacentauriB

We've landed ourselves a manager who promises to be a great addition to the club and ALREADY one or two are having to whinge about the length of the contract. For pity's sake, what IS it with them?

InsideOutCat

I suppose it's called learning from experience. The last two managers became an issue because their contracts were running down and so other clubs approached them. If Claude is a success, and we all hope



Claude Puel signs for Saints watched by Les Reed and Gareth Rogers.



New Saints boss Claude Puel in animated touchline action.

he will be, another PL team might want him and that would be

I will get behind the new team in full voice but why let Sammy Lee go!? I think he is a big part of the setup - replaced with a guy from Villa hmmm

DaSaint

May not have been my or many others first choice but we fully behind Claude and hope he contin-

ues our trajectory. To be fair both MoPo and Koeman had no Premier League experience and they both helped us grow so we shouldn't hold that against Claude. Let's see where we are when the transfer window shuts and hopefully this will be another exciting season.

bathsaints

Welcome Claude to the south coast and particular Southampton

FC. I am sure you are aware that this most famous and under-rated club is about to break into the top four positions of the premiership with you on board we could do a little better and surprise the so called big clubs which are known as the Once upon a time clubs. The big clubs think we are small, but let me tell you we have a big HEART and we love our football, once again Claude welcome to the premiership you are going to love this journey.

Saintpip

Seems to me that Saints seem to ignore the hype side of things and just get someone who matches most closely a set style of play. Thus Ron continued a similar style to MoPo, probably with slightly less fitness work and pressing and more of a focus on defense than attack. But it was similar. According to these reports, Puel has a very similar approach to Mo Po, which isn't a bad thing if it works. As far as I can see they are trying to create a system on and off the pitch (with some success so far) where you can remove key elements but still play and

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do Saints fans think?

Deals done at Cherries



is simply replaced. It looks like it's working.

Rooflas

exactly JD, the club plays the same system from 8yr olds up through the academy to the first team, every team plays the same way, therefore any manager must fit our system, our style of play. its done like that so that any younger player can slot into a higher age group and know his position and what is expected of him.

The previous chairman once said that managers are just 'cogs' in the machine, cogs that can be replaced without too much disruption. its funny that the previous chairman set up this 'cogs' system and then found himself as a 'cog', and one that was replaced with very little problem, we might even have replaced that cog with a smoother better fitting cog! as you say, 'well done to the club', and of course welcome mr Puel.

el caballo santos101

Erick Black Assistant Manager. Sounds promising. He presided over Villa's worst ever run of consecutive defeats. Surely Giggs or Gerrard would have been a better option.

Blackknight

Were they asked? Presumably the appointment of Black was sanctioned/approved by Claude. Maybe he knows something about him that we don't? He was popular

at Coventry because he played "attractive football"- maybe that has something to do with it.

ChristchurchSaint

Feel much the same as i did after Mo Po was bought in. Had no need to worry mind you and i hope that he fits in just as Poch did. A 3 year contract sounds about right for somebody not proven in the Premier League. I am sure if things do go wrong its a lot cheaper terminating a long term contract than a long term one. And vice versa contracts can always be extended too.

saintsfan76

I'm just worried that nothing has been mentioned about improving the squad with signings just constant talk about youth, our youth players are not that great and there is much better players out there we can buy.

Daniel Lowth

Underwhelmed but will back our chosen one

Daniel Rofo

No doubt he will get pinched after 2 seasons. No doubt he will buy players that will get resold on again.

David Beeden

I'm hoping the board have made the right call. His CV seems ok. If they've got it wrong fans will soon let them know.

Peter Shiner Brown

BOURNEMOUTH this week signed Lys Mousset on a four-year deal from French side Le Havre for an undisclosed fee.

The 20-year-old striker has been with the French Ligue 2 side since 2006 but signed his first professional contract in 2014.

Mousset has been part of the French Under-20 side since 2015 and has won eight caps.

Bournemouth chief executive Neill Blake said: "Lys is another player with great potential that we are delighted to bring to the football club."

"We're always planning for the future and Lys is not only a young player with exciting potential, but someone who had a massive impact for their club last season."

"We look forward to welcoming him to Vitality Stadium and believe he will only continue to improve under the tutelage of Eddie [Howe] and Jason [Tindall]."

The signing comes 24 hours after the Cherries completed a season-long loan deal for Chelsea's Nathan Ake, who manager Howe is looking forward to working with after watching him on loan at Watford last season.

Howe said: "Nathan had a really good season with Watford and also caught the eye during his loan spell with Reading in the Championship."

"We have played against him three times in the past couple of seasons and he has performed very well in all three games."

"He was used predominantly at left-back by Watford and also played at centre-back for them. His favoured position is as a central midfielder."

"He really did excel for Watford and I think those experiences will benefit us during the coming season."

"We will look to develop his talent."



Nathan Ake, left, in action for Chelsea

train the same way. That hopefully protects us when players or managers leave. Would certain explain the unexplainable continuity of success we've enjoyed despite mass exodus. Well done the club and welcome Claude.

SaintJD

Prior to our relegation in 2005, we had sturrock, wigley and Harry in charge in short succession. They bought in their payers and ideas which left us with players that were not needed and the club not knowing what style of play we played. We now have a structure, almost a jigsaw, which when one part goes



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End of an era as Giggs leaves Utd

RYAN Giggs is reportedly leaving Manchester United after almost 30 years with the club.

Joining as a schoolboy, the Welshman went on to make his first-team debut in March 1991, one of two run-outs he got that term.

He hung up his boots in 2014 having made 963 appearances for the Red Devils, scored 168 goals and won 34 trophies, and subsequently spent the next two seasons in the dugout as assistant manager.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a comparative look at United as they were around the time Giggs made his bow and as he now departs.

UNITED THEN

MANAGER

When Giggs was handed his senior debut as a 17-year-old winger, Sir Alex Ferguson had been in charge at United for just over four years. The Scot's tenure up to that point had been a mixed bag with some definite successes, but nothing compared to the sort of thing he would go on to achieve with the club. Indeed, it had only been the previous season when Mark Robins scored the famous FA Cup goal viewed as that which saved



Ryan Giggs.

Ferguson from the sack.

PLAYERS

Striker Mark Hughes was United's main man around this time. Their top scorer in 1989-90 with 15 goals in all competitions, he would finish 1990-91 with 21 and as PFA Player of the Year, while United winger Lee Sharpe took the Young Player award. Giggs' debut season also saw Hughes' strike partner Brian McClair score 21 times, while Red Devils centre-back Steve Bruce made an incredible contribution of 19 goals.

TROPHIES

Victory in the 1990 FA Cup final, in a replay against Crystal Palace, brought United their maiden trophy of the Ferguson era, and first for five years. After Giggs made his debut the following season, they would go on to claim the Cup Winners' Cup, although he was not involved in that triumph.

LEAGUE

United came 13th in 1989-90, their lowest top-flight finish since they were relegated in 1974. A year later that had been improved upon considerably, but the Old Trafford outfit were still way out of the title reckoning in sixth place.

continued on facing page

CLAUDE FACES



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SAINTS PROBLEM

... it's not of his causing, but new boss has to manage expectations

CLAUDE PUEL has a problem.

In a way, it's not the worst problem a new manager could have, *writes SIMON CARTER*.

After all, he has inherited a squad - bar two players - who finished sixth in supposedly the best league on planet earth last season.

The new Saints boss - the 15th to have managed the club in their 18-season Premier League life - takes over a squad packed with internationals.

It is an expensively-assembled squad, with six of them - Forster, Tadic, Bertrand, Long, Van Dijk and new boy Redmond - costing eight figure sums.

Far better that, then, than to be taking over a squad like, say, Aston Villa's.

But Puel is still facing a problem, and it's one caused by Saints' good form.

Put simply, the club have come too far too soon and someone will have to end up paying the consequences.

Look at the facts: since the start of the 2010/11 season, Saints have improved year on year.

From seventh in the third tier, to second in the third tier, to second in the second tier, to 14th in the Premier, to eighth in the Premier, to seventh in the Premier, to sixth in the Premier.

That is a hell of a rise, in a short space of time.

When Alan Pardew was controversially sacked by chairman Nicola Cortese in late August 2010 - just a few weeks after the death of Markus Liebherr, there was an outcry from supporters.

At the time, Saints were 22nd in the third division. There was a lot of room for improvement.

Not so much now, though.

When Nigel Adkins took over, there were 65 clubs above Saints in the pyramid.

As of last May, now there are just five.

Still room for improvement, yes, but not much room. Space is pretty crowded now.

That is the problem for Claude Puel.

I will lay my cards firmly on the table here, and Saints fans might not agree with me.

Here is a potential scenario. Saints, having lost Wanyama and Mane, lose two more crown jewels - let's say Forster and Van Dijk.

Let's say Puel signs some good quality replacements.

And let's say Saints finish tenth or 11th or 12th in 2016/17.

Nowhere near relegation, but nowhere near the European spots.

In other words, the sort of season Everton have just had.

Now how would Saints fans view that sort of season?

How would they view Puel? The man who, after a few years of phenomenal progress - from the bottom end of the League 1 table to the top six of the Premier League and two successive European campaigns - was in charge when Saints' league form dipped?

It would be totally understandable, would it not?

Saints have had a few summers of selling top players and STILL improving their league position.

That is an exceptional achievement, but not a reliable one for continual progress.

Sooner or later, surely, Saints' 'luck' has to run out?

By that, I don't mean the club experiencing a season like Villa endured in 2015/16 resulting in a miserable relegation. Or, for that matter, a season like Saints themselves endured in 2004/05 which resulted in them losing their top flight status.

I mean a season of mid-table football.

The cliché often bandied around is 'mid table mediocrity' but that cannot be a label fairly used in the Premier League.

You are not mediocre if you finish mid table in the top flight. You have held your own in a fiercely competitive league.

Saints fans have got used to finishing higher mid table, though.

Three successive years of top eight finishes.

Saints have only managed that feat once before in their history - back in the early 1980s when the footballing landscape was totally different to the one we see in front of our faces today.

Back then, the playing field was more level. The smaller clubs could compete with the bigger ones more easily, as Saints showed.

That was then, and this is now.

Now the footballing landscape is one where, apart from Leicester, the richest clubs with the most expensive squads win the trophies.

Saints' achievement in three successive top flight finishes in the current decade is far more impressive than it was in the 1980s.

That is good, obviously.

But the trouble with it is that fans get used to it.

They like it, and they want more. That is natural.

In football, there are rarely any grey areas.

Things are very black or very white.

In the eyes of most fans, their team, their club, are either going forwards or going backwards.

And backwards means complaints, groans, moans. In the boardroom as well as in the stands. And we all know how boardroom grumbles generally mean trouble for the manager.

At St Mary's, there have been no grey areas.

The team, the club, have been progressing. The evidence is there right in front of you, in the league table.

Adkins is sacked, fans are worried. In comes a virtual unknown.

Team improves, finishes in the top eight. Pochettino leaves, fans are worried. Players leave, in their droves. Fans even more worried.

In comes Koeman, and team still improves. More top players leave, but the team STILL improves.

Some fans have questioned Saints' ambition in recent times, but the hard facts are impossible to ignore.

Saints have sold players, but different managers have bought new ones and the team have still IMPROVED.

That is the bottom line.

One season, though, the league position won't improve.

Not when Saints are now competing against the two Manchester clubs, the two Merseyside clubs, the two North London clubs, and Chelsea - all of whom can realistically offer bigger wages and bigger transfer fees.

And Leicester, who finished 18 points clear of Saints last season.

Now even more money is coming into the Premier League via the new television deals, more clubs have a lot more money to splash out.

And make no mistake, some will do just that.

Stoke's record transfer fee is £18m - more than Saints have ever splashed out. And the Potters have recently said they are quite prepared to break that this summer.

If reports are to be believed, Crystal Palace were willing to pay £31m for a Belgian international this past week.

THIRTY ONE MILLION POUNDS! FOR ONE PLAYER! AT CRYSTAL PALACE!!!

That is what Saints are now up against, in addition to the seven 'glamour' clubs mentioned above who have history and tradition - and bigger crowds - on their side as well as a fat bank balance.

Saints are an attractive club to sign for, I've already said that. But so are West Ham and Palace, who can offer cosmopolitan London living to potential foreign mercenaries.

So are Leicester, with Champions League football. So are Stoke, who have finished ninth for three years running.

As the years go on, as more money is pumped into the Premier League, so it is harder and harder to succeed.

That is why Pochettino and Koeman must take a lot of credit for their achievements, even if they will probably be remembered as men who turned their backs on Saints in order to earn more money elsewhere at a supposedly bigger club.

This is a good time to be taking over Saints. Better to take over a team who have finished sixth top than one that had finished sixth bottom.

But the big danger is that the club have hit a ceiling as to how far they can realistically go, unless they were to shatter their current wage structure.

Perhaps Ronald Koeman knew that.

Perhaps Claude Puel doesn't, which is why he's in the hot seat.

If Puel oversees a league campaign where Saints finish ninth or 10th or 11th, I fear for him.

Manchester United then ... and now

from facing page

UNITED NOW

MANAGER

Managers these days are rarely given the kind of chance Ferguson was all those years ago to bounce back from a troubled period, and after a generally disappointing two-season stint as United boss, Louis van Gaal - under whom Giggs had been working as number two - was sacked in May. Former Chelsea, Porto, Inter and Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho was named as his successor a few days later and it now appears Giggs will not be a part of the new regime.

PLAYERS

Although the United line-ups of 2015-16 have born little resemblance to the great sides Ferguson oversaw in his 27-year tenure, or the group Giggs broke into in 1991, there has been a lot of young talent shining at the club.

Goalkeeper David de Gea and striker Anthony Martial, scorer of 17 goals in all competitions last term, are the stand-out players among that, while there is also the likes home-grown forward Marcus Rashford getting fans



New Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho.

excited.

Skipper Wayne Rooney, 30, has put in some decent performances in a new midfield role as well - and Swedish international legend Zlatan Ibrahimovic is set to be one of a number of big names brought in this summer by Mourinho.

TROPHIES

In May Van Gaal guided United to another FA Cup final triumph, once more against Crystal Palace - this time in extra time, rather than in a replay like 26 years earlier - as the club claimed their first significant piece of silverware since Ferguson's retirement in 2013 - but it was not enough to save the Dutchman from the axe only two days later.

LEAGUE

For all the success in between, United's most recent league position is similar to how it was when Giggs broke through.

Van Gaal's men finished fifth last season, having never really looked like title contenders - something Mourinho is very much expected to transform them into again.

Le Tiss, Giggs and other one club men ...

RYAN Giggs' reported departure from Manchester United will, if confirmed by the club, bring to an end a 29-year association with the team he joined as a 14-year-old.

Here, Press Association Sport looks at some of the other players with similarly long stays at one club.

Paolo Maldini (AC Milan, 31 years, 902 appearances)

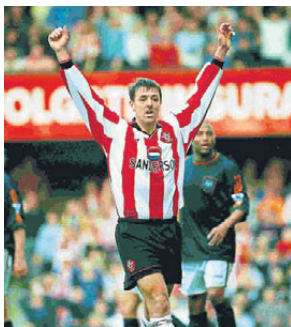
The Italy international was one of the players of his generation and one of the greatest defenders of all time, operating across the back four with consummate ease. A youth team product who joined as a 10-year-old, he made his first-team debut in 1985 and retired aged 41.

Sait Altinordu (Altinordu, 27 years, 847 appearances)

The Turkish defender made his club debut aged just 14 and did not retire until he was 41, making 847 appearances between 1926 and 1953.

Francesco Totti (Roma, 27 years, 758 appearances)

Joined the Roma youth squad in 1989 as a 13-year-old and made his debut in 1993. The attacking midfielder's name has become synonymous with Roma because of the length of his dedication



One club man Matt Le Tissier.

- which was extended by a further year this summer with a new 12-month contract which will take him past his 40th birthday.

Jamie Carragher (Liverpool, 25 years, 737 appearances)

The Everton-supporting youngster joined the Reds' youth set-up in 1988, eventually making his first-team debut nine years later. He went on to become the club's second-highest appearance-maker behind the uncatchable Ian Callaghan before retiring in 2013.

Ted Sagar (Everton, 24 years, 497 appearances)

The goalkeeper joined Everton from Thorne Colliery in 1929 and made his debut the following year, eventually retiring in 1953 with a record 463 league game tally which was eventually broken by another goalkeeper, one Neville Southall.

Matt Le Tissier (Saints, 15 years, 540 appearances)

Le Tissier spent his entire playing career with Saints, making his debut in 1986 and playing his final game in 2001. Of his 540 appearances, 426 were starts and 78 were sub outings. In that time he scored 209 goals.

Life and times of

IT is August 2011, and a 17-year-old is handed his first start for Birmingham City.

He has previously made just three sub appearances – two in the League Cup and one in the FA Cup under manager Alex McLeish.

The Scot had left by August 2011, though, and new boss Chris Hughton has no qualms about giving the youngster his first start in a Europa League qualifying tie in Portugal.

And Nathan Redmond made a good start, helping Birmingham – who had qualified for the tournament as League Cup winners – to a 0-0 first leg draw.

Redmond started the second leg at St Andrews a week later, and after 15 minutes of his first Blues start in a home game opened the scoring with a 20-yard drive.

Birmingham went on to win 3-0 and therefore took their place in the group stages.

And Redmond had underlined his potential by showing he was not out of place in a pressure situation.

Now Saints will be hoping to further unlock some of that potential following his £10m arrival from Norwich City.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at Redmond's club career so far.

2010/11

When he makes his competitive debut as a late sub against Rochdale in August 2010, Redmond is just 16 years and 173 days old – Birmingham's second youngest player of all time.

At the time, Redmond hadn't actually made an appearance for City's reserve team!

McLeish was impressed: "He set it alright. I know we never had a full house, but the fans that were there warmed to him. His performance was very bright, quick, he got a couple of shots away. And it excited me. It was a really bright spark for us.

"Has he got a big future? It looks like it. He's electric.

"He's a right winger but he showed his versatility coming in off the left and going in and hitting shots. He was a handful for Rochdale. It was good to see somebody with a little bit of pace going by defenders."

The Birmingham Mail newspaper called Redmond's 12 minute appearance against Dale "startling."

The Mail wrote: "Redmond got just the best part of 12 minutes, and Rochdale had just scored to make it tense at 3-2.

"But the winger lit up the tie with his cameo appearance and got fans buzzing excitedly about the possible discovery of a new St Andrew's wonderkid.

"Redmond was just 34 days older than Trevor Francis when he made his Blues debut – he therefore became the club's second-youngest-ever player – and comparisons inevitably started.

"He has the darting speed and



Nathan Redmond completes his transfer to Saints.



Nathan Redmond scores his first goal for Norwich, against Saints at Carrow Road in August 2013.

possesses danger in his boots, but he's a different player to Francis, more Aaron Lennon in style. But he has the same exuberance of youth and confidence in his ability that TF did."

Redmond later told the Mail he didn't think he would be good enough for them.

"I only had one year of Sunday

league football, and then I started at Blues.

"I was scared to come. I didn't think I'd be any good.

"When Blues came in for me, I was just playing football and enjoying it. I didn't think about Academies or anything. I didn't really understand what they were about. When I started, I realised how dif-

ferent it was to Sunday league. As I played here and got better, you could see the difference."

His mother Michelle, a single parent, proudly watched Redmond make his debut against Rochdale.

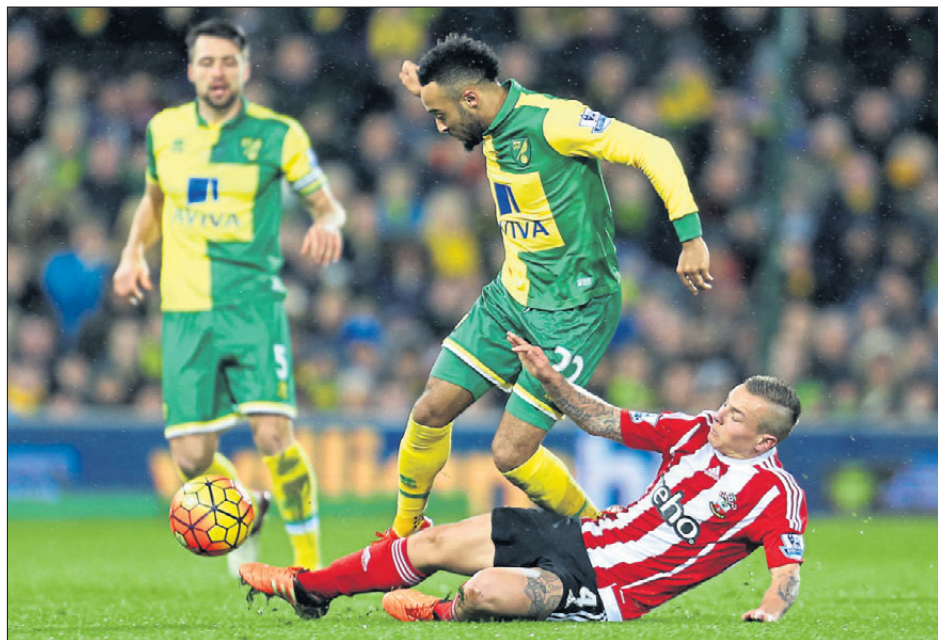
It was a reward for all the hours she had put in to provide for him and his younger brother, Niall, eight.

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new boy Redmond



Nathan Redmond (left) in action for Birmingham City back in January 2013.



Nathan Redmond is challenged by Saints midfielder Jordy Clasie at Carrow Road last January.

Redmond admits: "She worked two jobs to support me and my brother. She's doing catering and she used to run pubs in our area.

"She's revolved her life around me. That's why I want to make it so much. I owe everything to her.

"When I was eight and nine, she used to work all week long in the pubs, so I would live with my aunt-

ie. There's not really been much there for us, as a single mum it's been hard for her."

Redmond was first called into McLeish's squad in March 2010 - just a week after his 16th birthday.

He was 19th man, but warmed up on the St Andrew's pitch with the others.

Then, for the final home game

the 2009/10 campaign, he made the bench. Had he come on, he would not only have been Blues' youngest debutant, but the Premier League's too.

He was then becoming known in Blues' football circles - and by national scouts as he's been capped at Under-16 level - but after Rochdale, the secret was out.

"After my debut I went into Birmingham the next day, after college, with my mum for something to eat. Everyone was recognising me. It was like that after the Everton and Burnley games but a lot more because this time I had actually played. My mum, she was proud, but she was trying to eat and people were coming up.

"It's funny how things change. I used to be able to walk round town and not get noticed. I was like the average person.

"When I go into town with my friends now, you can see people just standing there, looking and whispering and talking about you.

"It's quite funny. I don't mind it at the moment.

"Maybe as I get older and I keep improving and hopefully become a really good player in the Premier League, then it might get annoying. But then it's learning to deal with it.

"My friends get annoyed with it already. They are saying 'what do they see in you, really?'. It's good that, to them, I'm just Nathan who they grew up with. I'm not a Birmingham City footballer.

"They've always been there for me. Some would wake up 7am pre-season to come out running and do stuff like that with me."

Redmond told the Mail: "I want to do good things, I want to give a good account of myself.

"But when my mum's been on the internet and seen people putting stuff like he's going to be the next whizz-kid, I'm looking at it and thinking it's good that they're talking of me like that, but I'd like to give myself time as I'm 16 and still learning.

"Those comparisons with Trevor Francis. I'd like to go on to do what he's done, and even bigger. World Cup football, 2014, that's an aim.

"But, like I said, I'm still young. I want to try and get more appearances for the first team. I'd like to become a big player, but that takes time and a lot of hard work."

That also means second-string football, which Redmond actually hasn't had much of.

"It was weird," he recalls, "we had a game against Coventry City a week after Rochdale and that was my first reserve start - after I had played for the first team."

Redmond made two more sub appearances that term, one in the League Cup - which Birmingham eventually won, beating Arsenal in the final - and one in the FA Cup.

2011/12

Redmond made five Championship starts plus 19 off the bench.

He scored five times - all after coming on as a sub.

Among those goals was an 86th minute winner against Pompey in February 2012.

Redmond helped Birmingham reach the Championship play off semi-finals, where they lost 3-2 on aggregate to Blackpool.

Continued on page 10

What Giggs did at MU, in a nutshell...

RYAN Giggs is leaving Manchester United after 29 years at the club. Here, the Sports Pink looks back at some of his most memorable moments during his time at Old Trafford.

May 4, 1991 - Manchester United 1 Manchester City 0
Giggs' first United goal came on his full debut and settled a derby. There was an element of doubt about it, with uncertainty over whether the then 17-year-old got a touch before defender Colin Hendry did, but it went down in the record books.

September 19, 1992 - Tottenham 1 Manchester United 1
One of the first sightings of Giggs' mazy dribbling skills. He galloped past Jason Cundy and Dean Austin, then took the ball wide of goalkeeper Ian Walker before finding the net from the tightest of angles.

February 5, 1994 - QPR 2 Manchester United 3
After whipping the ball away from Ray Wilkins, Giggs embarked on a forward charge the QPR defence was unable to resist before firing left-footed past Jan Stejskal.

April 14, 1999 - Arsenal 1 Manchester United 2
Giggs' most famous goal. Down to 10 men following Roy Keane's dismissal and kept in the match only by a late Peter Schmeichel penalty save, United claimed their place in the FA Cup final after Giggs seized on a loose ball inside his own half and roared forward. Lee Dixon was the last man beaten before Giggs' shot flew past a startled



Ryan Giggs

David Seaman, prompting bare-chested celebrations.

February 25, 2003 - Juventus 0 Manchester United 3
Giggs provided a reminder of his class on one of United's great European nights. The pick of his two goals was a right-footed effort beyond a helpless Gianluigi Buffon.

September 20, 2009 - Manchester United 4 Manchester City 3
Giggs may have lost some of the pace of his youth but his instinct was still razor-sharp. When he received the ball on the edge of the box in the sixth minute of injury time in a frenetic derby, he made the perfect decision, playing a well-weighted pass for Michael Owen to claim a dramatic winner.

April 26, 2011 - Schalke 0 Manchester United 2
United found it difficult to turn their superiority into goals in this Champions League semi-final until Giggs intervened midway through the second half. The Welshman broke the deadlock after 67 minutes.

February 23, 2013 - QPR 0 Manchester United 2
Giggs set the seal on another victory on United's march to a record 20th title when he calmly beat Julio Cesar.

April 26, 2014 - Manchester United 4 Norwich 0
With David Moyes sacked, Giggs was asked to take over as manager until the end of the season. His first game in charge ended in a resounding win. He went on to win two, draw one and lose one of his four games.

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Tim's Eur 2016 blog - part two

IN last week's Sports Pink, Tim Murray from Chandler's Ford wrote his blog about following England in the Euro 2016 group games.

In his second, and last, blog Tim writes about his final few days in France.

Monday, June 27

Well it's match day again and after six days soaking up the sun we are all ready and about to embark on what could be a difficult journey to the Stade de Nice.

We have been warned that the local shuttle will be dropping off, leaving a 30 minute walk to the stadium... not being good on my pins we discovered that some of our other friends are staying at a hotel only 750 metres from the ground... so I plan to leave at 3pm and should be there at the hotel for 5pm - 4 hours before kick off.

Our current hotel in Antibes has been super compared to previous drab (Lyon) hotels. Two days ago we went to the ticket pick-up point, and as we went early everything went pretty smoothly with one exception... all the fans had been sent an email from UEFA to say that only the named person on the voucher could pick the tickets up.

So in my case I was picking up for Keith and I.



Tim Murray soaking up the Nice sunshine.

On arrival, the FA butted in and said "No, every person has to pick their individual tickets up

What a pain, so I showed them the Email and they (FA) were unaware of the email. So loads of fans turning up, not just for their own but for others on their order too, now have to make double trips just to get hold of a match ticket.

Case of last hand and right hand not talking to each other.... right, off we go... will talk after game with more pics and chat

Taking into account the trouble we had getting into the stadium prior to Nice, this was an absolute doddle.

But I did come a lot earlier than Marseille and about the same time as St Etienne. The Icelandic fans are fantastic. Great fun.

Players out on the pitch warming up. The atmosphere is electric and the stadium is only 3/4 full.... will cont at half time.

Woke up this morning and still feel like there has to be a different approach.

There was no passion from the England players with the exception of Vardy who was thrown on late 2nd half and also Rushford who actually took on players and created a few chances.

Continued on facing page

Has Nathan taken

from page 9

For his efforts, he was awarded his club's Young Player of the Year award.

2012/13

He became more of a first team regular, making 22 Championship starts and a further 18 appearances off the bench as Redmond's hometown club finished mid-table in the second tier.

In the summer of 2013 - aged 19 - Redmond signed for newly promoted Norwich City for £3.2m.

Swansea had also agreed a deal with Birmingham, but Redmond had no hesitation in choosing the Canaries - who were managed by the man who had given him his first Blues start, Hughton.

Charity

(Birmingham remains close to Redmond's heart, and his involvement with the charity Help Harry Help Others is highly personal.

Harry Moseley died from a brain tumour when he was 11 and he would make beaded bracelets and sell them to raise money for research into his disease.

"He knew he was going to die and for an 11-year-old to grasp that and make bracelets for a pound so that all the money can go to the other kids in hospital, just that story alone is special," Redmond said last year.

"I went to school with the family's daughter, Danielle, and her mum, Georgina, is a fantastic woman, she's kept the charity going for years now. For it to be so close to home, it affected so many people in the community.

"It wasn't too long but with the life that he left, he affected so many people and met so many people. His family have got a headquarters in the local community and two walk-in cancer support centres. I pop in just if I'm on a day off and I see groups of school kids in there making bracelets.

"I took my little brother and little sister down there to make some bracelets and chat with Georgie and the family. It just keeps everything close to home."

2013/14

Redmond made his Premier League debut for Norwich in a 2-2 draw with Everton on August 17 2013, and scored his first goal two weeks later against - oh the irony! - Saints.

Playing on the left wing - not his natural side - he cut inside and lashed home low from the edge of the box to secure Norwich's first league win of the season.

Relegated

That was to turn out to be Redmond's only league goal of his debut season at Carrow Road, which ended with Norwich relegated.

He had made 23 league starts, plus another 11 off the bench.



Nathan Redmond in action for Norwich at Old Trafford last season.



Nathan Redmond celebrates scoring against Watford at Carrow Road last May.

2014/15

He was a regular member of the Canaries side that won instant promotion back to the top flight in May 2015.

Redmond made 33 starts, plus 10 off the bench, and scored four goals.

He saved his most important goals

until late in the season.

He netted on the final day of the regular Championship campaign; his strike was the deciding factor against bitter East Anglian rivals Ipswich in the play-off semi final; and he scored the Canaries' second at Wembley to see off Middlesbrough and secure promotion at the first attempt.

He also provided 13 assists in the regular 2014/15 season - the third highest in the Championship.

2015/16

Buoyed by his scoring form at the end of the previous season, Redmond then made a superb start to Norwich's 2015/16 top flight cam-

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a 'needless risk'?



Nathan Redmond celebrates Norwich City's promotion from the Championship at Wembley in May 2015.



Nathan Redmond celebrates scoring his first Norwich goal against Saints in August 2013.

paign, scoring four times in the first nine games.

He grabbed the consolation in an opening day 3-1 home loss to Crystal Palace - firing in from 25 yards - and was on target again in a 3-1 win at Sunderland a week later.

Redmond ended the season with six goals - a best-ever haul - from 22 starts plus 10 as a sub.

Sadly for him, Norwich were unable to hold onto their Premier League status, though.

Ronald Koeman had made strong efforts to bring him to Saints in the summer of 2014, but Norwich would not sell.

Inconsistencies

This time, though, Southampton

finally got their man.

And hopefully Saints can iron out the inconsistencies that have - unsurprisingly, due to his age - dogged his career so far.

The Norwich Evening News paper said this about Redmond's decision to swap eastern England for the south coast.

"As soon as Norwich City's rel-

egation was confirmed, there was something set to happen that was as inevitable as the Canaries featuring in the Championship fixture list - Nathan Redmond's departure.

"The winger's arrival from a second tier club in Birmingham back in the summer of 2013, then still only 19 years old, was all about one thing: testing himself in the ruthless world of the Premier League.

"Redmond already had the England pedigree and his heavy involvement and respect in the Three Lions' development set-up was never far away during this three-year spell at Carrow Road.

"In fact, it underpins exactly why the winger doesn't want to go through a second Championship season in three years; as did England Under-21s' Toulon Tournament success, in which Redmond was a key factor.

Big question

"At the grand old age of 22, with suitors aplenty to help mould, coach and raise his game to the next level, Redmond's time in Norfolk was done.

"Perhaps the big question it leaves is whether his time at Norwich served its purpose?

"The electric days and nights will never be forgotten.

"Be it at Old Trafford, City's Championship promotion in 2015, his inspired effort at home to Watford or being credited at Wembley with one of the greatest Norwich City goals ever scored - Redmond has been worth every penny of that £3.2m fee.

"There have also been spells - plenty of them - where it didn't quite happen for him. Where Redmond wasn't involved. Where even in the midst of a pacy break, he would hold things up and decide to wait - and where it seemed Redmond's development was going along at a similar tempo.

"There was often frustration. Often inconsistency. But we're talking about a player who made 122 Norwich appearances, scored 13 goals - and is still yet to play a competitive match as anything other than an official under-21 player. Is it really any wonder?

"The record £11m fee City received is OK given the money now available to Premier League clubs and the swift sorting of the deal.

Articulate

"Redmond is bright and articulate enough to deal well with his next challenge - although joining a club still yet to name its new manager seems a curious, needless risk to take.

"The winger's progress at Southampton will be keenly watched from here in Norfolk. Where Redmond's career now heads rests, as it always has, with his own drive and ability.

"But for the part the Canaries played in his journey, there were more than enough good moments to wish Nathan Redmond thanks and good luck for what comes next."

Giggs career by numbers

RYAN GIGGS' MANCHESTER UNITED CAREER IN NUMBERS

17: Giggs' age when he made his first-team debut on March 2, 1991, a 2-0 home loss for United against Everton.

40: His age when he retired from playing in May 2014.

963: The number of appearances Giggs made for United in all competitions, a club record.

168: The total number of goals the Welshman scored for the Red Devils.

13: The number of times Giggs netted in the Premier League in 1993-94, his highest-scoring season, when he scored 17 in all competitions.

One: Giggs only failed to score an English top-flight goal for United in one season during his playing career - 2013-14, his last.

Zero: Giggs was never sent off for United.

Four: The number of games he took charge of United for towards the end of the 2013-14 season following David Moyes' sacking as boss. Giggs oversaw a 4-0 win against Norwich, a 1-0 loss to Sunderland, a 3-1 victory over Hull - all at Old Trafford - and a 1-1 draw at Southampton.

34: Giggs' trophy haul as a United player - 13 Premier League titles, four FA Cups, three League Cups, nine Community Shields, two Champions Leagues, one World Club Cup, one Intercontinental Cup and one UEFA Super Cup. He is the most decorated player in English history.

Gutted at Euro woe

from facing page

Why did the team have the contempt to think that "we are England and deserve to win against Iceland"?

Iceland were a team not just of players but a fan collective in unison with their team.

Well done, Iceland, your fans won it for you along with Joe Hart gifts.....

Sadly, this is possibly the worst ever performance in the whole history of me attending England games..

Will I be back for more?

I doubt it.

I have put more effort into Supporting MY TEAM and what have I got to show for it?

I have made hundreds of friends, whom I would never have met apart from at the football.

I have had some fantastic trips, which under most circumstances I would never dreamt of going to.

I have made friends all over the globe, and they will never be forgotten.

The highs and lows of watching your country.

I could go on, but the way I feel right now could not be printed.

Gutted is an understatement...

Oh and one last thing - never trust a French taxi driver ...

England's 2017 games

England will return to Taunton for the first time in 34 years next season, and the 2017 Royal London Cup final will also have a throwback mid-summer date at Lord's.

A NatWest Twenty20 international against South Africa in Taunton on June 23 and domestic 50-over showpiece on July 1 are two of the most eye-catching fixtures published in the England and Wales Cricket Board's major match schedule for next year.

There is no update in the dates and venues released on Friday afternoon as to the likelihood or otherwise of an inaugural day-night Test to be staged in this country.

Reports have suggested either the August or September Tests against the West Indies at Edgbaston and Lord's could be the first to be held under lights in England.

A packed summer, which will also include the Champions Trophy between June 1 and June 18, features seven Tests - four against South Africa and three against the Windies - in little more than two months, between July 6 and September 11. The international schedule begins on May 5, and extends to September 29.

ECB chief executive Tom Harrison said: "With three different international teams coming here next summer and this country playing host to two major ICC global events - the ICC Champions Trophy and the ICC Women's World Cup - there will be a feast of international cricket to excite us in England and Wales.

"Both the international and the domestic schedule will have a different shape to previous years.

"The early-season block for the Royal London One-Day Cup - with a new mid-season date for its Lord's final - will support both England's ICC Champions Trophy preparations and our longer-term planning for the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2019.

"It promises to be a memorable summer of cricket for all our international grounds and a particularly special one for Somerset CCC, which will host its first England men's fixture for more than 30 years."

2017 Major Match Schedule:
England v Ireland
Fri May 5 - 1st Royal London ODI, Bristol
Sun May 7 - 2nd Royal London ODI, Lord's

England v South Africa
May 24 - 1st Royal London ODI (D/N), Headingley
May 27 - 2nd Royal London ODI, Ageas Bowl
May 29 - 3rd Royal London ODI, Lord's
June 21 - 1st NatWest IT20, Ageas Bowl
June 23 - 2nd NatWest IT20, Taunton
June 25 - 3rd NatWest IT20, Cardiff
July 6-10, 1st Investec Test, Lord's
July 14-18, 2nd Investec Test, Trent Bridge
July 27-31, 3rd Investec Test, Kia Oval
Aug 4-8, 4th Investec Test, Emirates Old Trafford

England v West Indies
Aug 17-21, 1st Investec Test, Edgbaston
Aug 25-29, 2nd Investec Test, Headingley
Sep 7-11 Sept 3rd Investec Test, Lord's
Sep 16, NatWest IT20, Emirates Riverside
Sep 19, 1st Royal London ODI (D/N), Old Trafford
Sep 21, 2nd Royal London ODI (D/N), Trent Bridge
Sep 24, 3rd Royal London ODI, Bristol
Sep 27, 4th Royal London ODI (D/N), Kia Oval
Sep 29, 5th Royal London ODI (D/N), Ageas Bowl

Domestic Finals
July 1, Royal London One-Day Cup Final, Lord's
Sep 2, NatWest T20 Blast Finals' Day, Edgbaston

Redmond hoping

NATHAN Redmond will be hoping his move to Saints is the catalyst to full international honours.

The winger has scooped a handful of international awards since making his England U16 debut against Wales in October 2009.

Redmond helped England win the Victory Shield that season.

The following year, 2010, he played in all four games as England U16s reached the final of the annual Montaigu Tournament in France. England were beaten in the final by Portugal.

Redmond made his debut for England under-17s in August 2010 - a few days before making his senior Birmingham City debut in a League Cup tie against Rochdale.

Redmond made his first appearance in a 5-0 win in the Nordic Tournament against Finland, and then scored in another victory over Denmark. England won the event by beating Sweden in the final.

Redmond was part of the England under-17 squad that qualified for the 2011 European under-17 championships.

Needing to beat Spain to finish top of their elite round group, Redmond opened the scoring from a Raheem Sterling cross as England won 2-1.

Scoring

In the final stages, he started the first two group games, a draw with France and a defeat against Denmark, and was a sub in the remaining group game - a 3-0 victory against Serbia which took England through to the semifinal and confirmed their qualification for the 2011 FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Redmond was a second-half substitute in the semi final, which England lost to the Netherlands.

Redmond moved up to the England under-18s, a non-competitive age group at international level, in 2011. He made his debut in a 1-1 draw in Slovakia in November of that year.

Brought into the under-19s squad, Redmond made his first appearance at that level in February 2012 as a second half substitute for Saido Berahino in a 2-1 defeat of the Czech Republic.

He was part of the squad for the 2012 European under-19 championships, and scored the winning goal against Serbia in the group stage that confirmed England's progress to the semi-final and qualification for the 2013 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

After an injury to Andros Townsend forced his withdrawal, Redmond was a late call up into the under-21 squad for the 2013 European Under-21 Championship finals.

With Tom Ince suspended and Wilfried Zaha injured, Redmond started England's opening match of the tournament - a 1-0 defeat to Italy.

Captain Jordan Henderson picked out Redmond for praise in a generally poor team performance. Among his colleagues against Italy were ex-Saints defenders Nathaniel



Nathan Redmond in action against Belarus' during an England under-21 international at Barnsley in 2015.



Clyne and Steven Caulker.

Redmond kept his place for the second group game, against Norway, as part of a three-man attack alongside the returning Ince and Zaha.

The Independent newspaper described him as "one of the few who offered any promise" until he was replaced" by Jonjo Shelvey in a 3-1

loss which confirmed England's elimination.

Redmond also played in England's final group game, a 1-0 loss to Israel.

Redmond scored the first goal and was named the sponsors' man of the match as England under-21s thrashed Scotland 6-0 in August 2013.

With senior boss Roy Hodgson

taking temporary charge of the Under-21s, Redmond opened the scoring after just three minutes before Raheem Sterling struck before the break.

Connor Wickham, Ross Barkley, Jonjo Shelvey and Tom Carroll also scored.

Never a prolific score at club level, Redmond cracked a hat-trick

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for England action



Nathan Redmond scores for England under-21s in 2015.



Nathan Redmond (second left) celebrates scoring for England under-21s at Middlesbrough in 2015.

against Wales U21 in May 2014 in a Euro 2015 Championship qualifier in Swansea.

There were only 5,000 at the Liberty Stadium to see Redmond net his only ever senior treble, with his England colleagues that evening including new Saints team-mate James Ward-Prowse, Danny Ings, Harry Kane and Jack Butland.

Alongside Ward-Prowse, Redmond helped England Under-21s win the Toulon Tournament in France earlier this summer.

He scored twice in the group games, following up a long-range drive in the 7-1 romp against Guinea with the final goal in a 4-0 win over Paraguay U23s.

He set up Ruben Loftus-Cheek for

the Young Lions' second goal in a 2-1 win over France in the final.

It was the first time England had won the Toulon Tournament since the mid 1990s.

Redmond was named among the subs for the official 'Team of the Toulon Tournament' with Ward-Prowse also on the bench.

Ex-Saint Calum Chambers and

Chelsea duo Nathaniel Chalobah and Ruben Loftus-Cheek were all included in the first XI.

Loftus-Cheek picked up the award for the tournament's best player.

Loftus Cheek and Chambers made just six Premier League starts combined in 2015/16, while Redmond and Ward-Prowse played far more often.

Redmond, meanwhile, has now won 29 caps at U21 level, scoring nine goals.

Only five players have won more U21 caps than he has.

In all, he has won 67 youth caps at various age levels for England.

The next step is the an obvious one - promotion to the senior England side.

And that is why he will be hoping his move to Saints ends up being a successful one.

● Arsene Wenger should stay at Arsenal in a bid to deliver the Premier League title rather than take on the challenge of rebuilding England, according to goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

The 66-year-old Frenchman is reported to be on the Football Association's radar once more as the search for a permanent successor to Roy Hodgson continues following an early end to the Three Lions' Euro 2016 campaign with a humiliating defeat to Iceland.

Wenger is heading into the final season of his current contract, with suggestions the Emirates Stadium club are ready to look at another extension.

Szczesny, part of the Poland squad which went out of Euro 2016 on penalties to Portugal in Marseille on Thursday night, believes Arsenal's future is best served with Wenger still at the helm.

"I am sure he would be a great thing for England, but my main interest is Arsenal and I hope it doesn't happen, for the sake of Arsenal, not for the sake of England," Szczesny said.

● Chelsea have confirmed the departures of forwards Radamel Falcao and Alexandre Pato at the end of their loan deals, while squad goalkeeper Marco Amelia will also leave Stamford Bridge.

Falcao had joined the Blues on a season-long deal from Monaco following a spell at Manchester United.

However, the 30-year-old Colombian made a limited impact with just 12 appearances as he was hampered by injury setbacks.

Pato, meanwhile, was signed from Corinthians in January but the Brazilian struggled with fitness issues and made only two first-team appearances under interim manager Guus Hiddink.

Amelia, meanwhile, was signed on a short-term contract to provide cover for then injured goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

New manager Antonio Conte is set to take up his role following the end of Italy's Euro 2016 campaign.

The Blues are expected to secure

Unsung Brit aces on the tennis court

WORLD number 772 Marcus Willis became the toast of Wimbledon on Monday with his straight-sets victory over the world's 54th-ranked player Ricardas Berankis.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back on five other unsung Brits who became heroes for a day at SW19.

1. NICK BROWN BEATS GORAN IVANISEVIC, second round, 1991
Wildcard entry and world number 591 Brown stunned 10th seed Goran Ivanisevic in four sets.
Brown's victory was at the time dubbed the biggest upset since the inception of computer rankings in 1973.
Brown battled his way to the third round 4-6 6-3 7-6 6-3, catching the previous year's semi-finalist Ivanisevic cold.

2. BARRY COWAN PUSHES PETE SAMPRAS TO FIVE SETS, second round, 2001
Defending champion Pete Sampras blasted through the first two sets 6-3 6-2 to leave world number 248 Cowan staring down a routine defeat.
But then Liverpool fan Cowan, inspired by listening to *You'll Never Walk Alone* in breaks of play, mounted the most unlikely of comebacks.
Cowan took the third set on tie break before claiming the fourth too, to set up a tense decider amid raucous Centre Court scenes.
Ultimately though the then 13-time major winner Sampras hit back to close out the clash, prevailing 6-3 6-3 6-7 (5/7) 4-6 6-3 to progress to the third round.



Marcus Willis

3. ANDREW CASTLE GOES THE DISTANCE WITH MATS WILANDER, second round, 1986
World number 287 Castle pushed reigning Australian and French Open champion Wilander to the limit on Number One Court. A fluctuating match saw 22-year-old Castle claim the first and third sets, before Wilander took control.
The world number two flexed all his superiority to dismiss a shattered Castle in the decider however, but not before the British youngster had offered impressive resolve and tenacity.
Wilander prevailed 4-6 7-6 6-7 6-4 6-0, rattling through the final set with Castle spent.

4. CHRIS BAILEY TAKES GORAN IVANISEVIC TO FIVE SETS, second round, 1993
Bailey was ranked 263 in the world when he dispatched world number 90 Patrick McEnroe, John's younger brother, in the first round at Wimbledon in 1993.
That impressive victory set up a second-round clash with 1992's beaten finalist Ivanisevic, leading to a Centre Court classic. Bailey stunned Ivanisevic by claiming the opening set, then pushed the tie all the way to the decider.
Bailey actually forced match point in the final set.

5. JEREMY BATES BATTLES TO FIVE SETS AGAINST GUY FORGET, fourth round, 1992
Bates beat Michael Chang in the first round before moving through to take on seventh seed Forget in the fourth round.
Bates saved a match point in the fourth set, to push the match into a decider.
Forget won 6-7 6-4 3-6 7-6 6-3.

Messi's tale of Argentine near misses

LIONEL Messi, five times FIFA's player of the year, said his international career with Argentina was over after the Copa America loss to Chile.

Argentina have not won a major senior title since the 1993 Copa America and Messi's main international successes are gold at the 2008 Olympics and victory in the 2005 FIFA Under-20s World Cup.

Here the Sports Pink looks at Messi's participation in major international tournaments.

2006 World Cup (quarter-finals)

Messi was the youngest scorer, netting in the 6-0 defeat of Serbia and Montenegro, but did not play in the quarter-final penalty shoot-out loss to hosts Germany.

2007 Copa America (runners-up)

Argentina reached the final in Venezuela, but were beaten 3-0 by Brazil, with Messi's youth making him exempt from the criticism aimed at some of his team-mates.

2010 World Cup (quarter-finals)

A 4-0 last-eight loss to Germany



Argentina's Lionel Messi reacts after missing his penalty.

ended Argentina's participation in the tournament in South Africa, where they were coached by Diego Maradona, but Messi was acknowledged as one of the competition's best players.

2011 Copa America (quarter-finals)

Hosts Argentina lost 5-4 on penalties in the quarter-finals to eventual champions Uruguay. Messi converted his spot-kick after a 1-1 draw.

2014 World Cup (runners-up)

Messi was named player of the tournament, controversially in some people's eyes, as Germany proved too good for Argentina.

2015 Copa America (runners-up)

Argentina edged past Colombia on penalties, before the final with hosts Chile was decided on spot-kicks. Messi was the only Argentinian to score.

2016 Copa America (runners-up)

Again Chile won the final with a penalty shoot-out victory over Argentina. This time, Messi missed his spot-kick and then quit.

Will Mane be huge

SAINTS striker Sadio Mane this week became Liverpool's second most expensive signing ever when he completed his move from St Mary's to Anfield.

Saints receive £34m for the Senegalese international, rising to £36m.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at whether Liverpool's other ultra expensive recruits have been value for money.

Andy Carroll £35m Jan 2011

The departure of Fernando Torres to Chelsea may have left Liverpool short up front on deadline day, but it also left new owners Fenway Sports Group needing a public relations boost.

Enter Carroll from Newcastle United. That he arrived injured was a sign of what was to come for the forward.

There were moments, not least his double against Manchester City, a late winner at Blackburn Rovers, a dramatic FA Cup semi-final decider against Everton and his goal in the final defeat to Chelsea.

But after only 11 goals in 58 games, it was clear he wasn't part of new manager Brendan Rodgers' plans, a season-long loan at West Ham United later made permanent for £15m.

Verdict: MISS

Christian Benteke £32.5m Jul 2015

Despite Carroll not being in the Rodgers mould, that didn't stop the Reds boss giving the green light to signing someone in Carroll's mould to rectify the goalscoring problem created by Luis Suarez's departure 12 months earlier and Daniel Sturridge's injury woes.

Benteke arrived boasting an excellent goals record at Aston Villa but it just hasn't happened for the Belgian.

Ten goals in 42 games isn't awful, but Benteke's overall play sorely lacks confidence, especially since Jurgen Klopp replaced Rodgers as manager in October.

Verdict: MISS

Roberto Firmino £29m (£21m plus up to £8m in add-ons) Jul 2015

YouTube was inundated with requests to watch videos of the Brazil international when it emerged Liverpool were closing in on a surprise deal for the Hoffenheim man.

In truth, only European football hipsters were aware of what the forward could offer.

After a slow start to life at Anfield, the rest were none the wiser.

Then, some time in the New Year, Firmino found form, with no Premier League player having been involved in more goals in terms of scoring and assists. Under Klopp, he has prospered.

Verdict: HIT

Adam Lallana £25m Jul 2014

Lallana had impressed sufficient-

ly at Southampton for Reds fans to be intrigued by his arrival, if perhaps not massively enthused.

During his first season, though, the England man became renowned more for his tendency to talk to the Liverpool Echo and a propensity of Cruyff turns rather than sufficient ability on the pitch.

That, though, has all changed under Klopp. And while he still to convince all his doubters, Lallana is heading in the right direction.

Verdict: Maybe

Luis Suarez £22.8m Jan 2011

To think there were those who, after his first 18 months at Anfield, suggested Suarez was more a scorer of great goals than a great goalscorer.

Suarez may have caused the Liverpool legal team some headaches on occasion, but beyond dispute was his contribution on the pitch. The Uruguayan became a Kop hero and, after a total of 82 goals in 133 games, moved to Barcelona for £75m in 2014.

Verdict: HIT

Fernando Torres £20.2m Jul 2007

It didn't end particularly well for Torres – moving from Anfield to Chelsea does tend to irk people – but what can't be forgotten is just how proficient a goalscorer the Spaniard was for the Reds.

Torres netted 33 times in 46 games in his first season, but that he managed only 17 in 38 the next season hinted at niggling injury concerns that would recur throughout his stay.

He had become disillusioned under Roy Hodgson's tenure and ended with 81 goals in 142 games when Chelsea came knocking armed with £50m in January 2011.

Verdict: HIT

Dejan Lovren £20m (£16m plus up to £4m in add-ons) Jul 2014

Had we been making assessments as recently as four months ago, Lovren would have been a resounding miss after a torrid first 18 months at Anfield following his move from Saints.

But it's credit to the Croatian's reserves of character, confidence and commitment that he has started to transform his fortunes, forging a strong partnership at centre-back alongside Mamadou Sakho.

While a Rodgers signing, Lovren has prospered under Klopp to the extent there is zero suggestion he will be sold this summer.

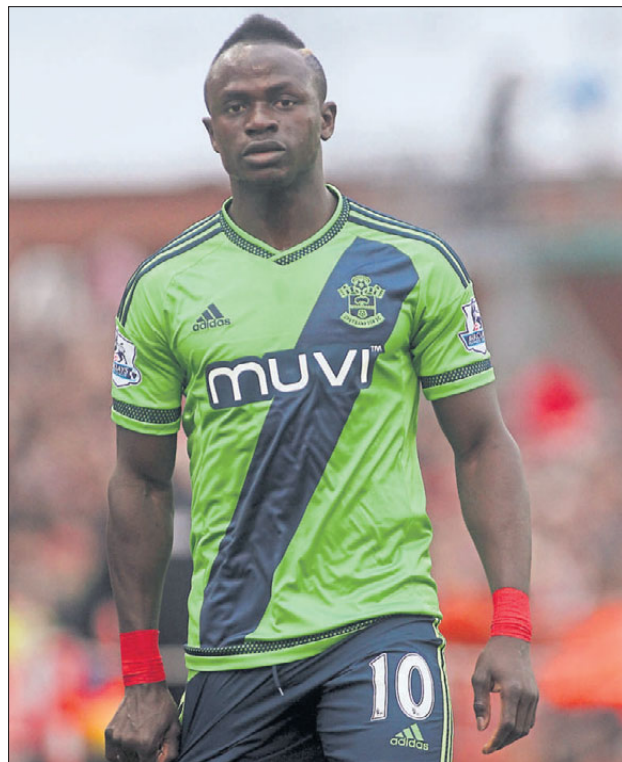
Verdict: MAYBE

Lazar Markovic £19.8m Jul 2014

Markovic wasn't short of confidence when addressing the media following his expensive arrival as a 20-year-old from Benfica.

On the pitch, though, the Serbian demonstrated a shocking lack of self-belief.

Fortune often conspired against Markovic. An injury delayed his debut while he was the recipient



Sadio Mane this week swapped St Mary's for Anfield.



Anfield flop - former Aston Villa striker Christian Benteke.

of a harsh red card just when he appeared capable of turning the Champions League decider against Basel last season.

He was shipped out on loan at Fenerbahce last season where, typically, his spell was hampered by injury.

Verdict: MISS

Robbie Keane £19m Jul 2008

Arrived with a seasoned reputation as a Premier League striker. He could help Torres shoulder the goalscoring burden. He was a boyhood Liverpool fan. And he was good mates with skipper Steven Gerrard.

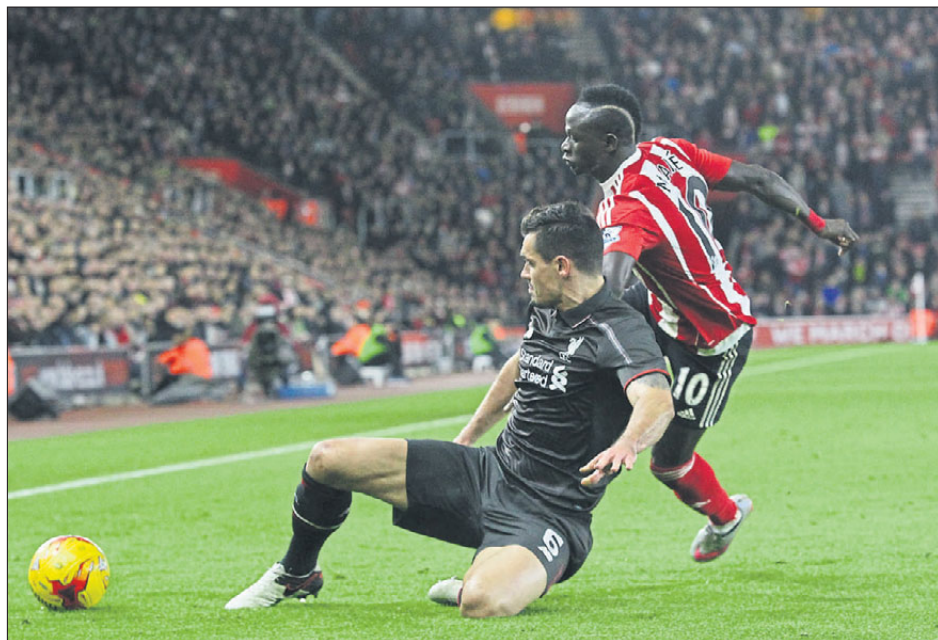
However, it took Keane until October to score his first goal and

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hit or miss?



Adam Lallan, left, with Saints defender Cuco Martina.



Dejan Lovren with his new Liverpool colleague Sadio Mane at St Mary's last season.

another month to end his Premier League drought.

A fine strike at Arsenal aside, there were few highlights for the misfiring Irishman, who was soon back at Tottenham for £12m six months later.

Verdict: MISS

Javier Mascherano £18.6m Feb

2008

Rafael Benitez tracked the man dubbed 'the Monster' for years. After an initial year-long loan, Mascherano's move was made permanent, although it was by no means a routine transaction given concerns over third-party ownership.

By then, it was a no-brainer, such

was the Argentine's immediate impact, all the more surprising given his earlier failure at West Ham.

Having chased him for more than a year, Barcelona finally got their man for a surprisingly cheap £18m.

Then Liverpool boss Hodgson called the player "selfish".

Verdict: HIT

HOW ENGLAND RATED IN AUSSIES WHITEWASH ...

HOW England's rugby union side rated during their stunning 3-0 whitewash of hosts Australia.

Forwards

DAN COLE: Superb tour for a player who is being nurtured carefully by head coach Eddie Jones. Scrummaged well and a force in the tight. Mark: 8 (out of 10)

LUKE COWAN-DICKIE: Played eight minutes of the first Test and then failed to make the bench for the second two games. 6

JACK CLIFFORD: Lost out to Teimana Harrison when James Haskell was injured for the climax to the series and notably slipped off a tackle when he did come on. 6

ELLIS GENGE: A surprise inclusion in the touring party, the 21-year-old Bristolian prop is admired by Jones and is a player for the future. 5

JAMIE GEORGE: Made only final-quarter cameos in the second and third Tests, but his influence on both games was key. 8

TEIMANA HARRISON: An uncertain future awaits after he was picked ahead of Clifford in Sydney only to be replaced after 30 minutes. 5

DYLAN HARTLEY: The hysteria greeting his appointment as captain now seems absurd because he has proved to be an outstanding choice. 9

JAMES HASKELL: The totem for English physicality under Jones. Fierce, relentless and disciplined, he grows in stature with every match. Player of the series. 9

PAUL HILL: Northampton prop was a bit-part player who has a supporting role at tighthead. Another front row with a strong future. 6

MARO ITOJE: It is hard to imagine that Jones questioned only in February if he is tough enough for Test rugby. A player of frightening potential. 9

GEORGE KRUIS: While his fellow forwards attract more headlines, the unsung hero of England's pack goes about his work with unfailing commitment. 8

JOE LAUNCHBURY: Unable to dislodge the all-Saracens pairing of Itoje and Kruis, but a support act of the highest calibre. 7

COURTNEY LAWES: Another who has slipped down the second row pecking order, but his shifts in Melbourne and Sydney proved his worth as a replacement. 8

MATT MULLAN: Operates in a position of substantial depth, but the loosehead prop can hold his head up high. 6

CHRIS ROBshaw: The second Test will be a cherished memory for Robshaw - 50th cap, man of the match and a series victory over Australia all rolled into one game. 9

KYLE SINCKLER: Alongside Genge, one of Jones' two "bowling balls". Did not play but will be in the mix farther down the road. 5

BILLY VUNIPOLA: Reasonable series until the final Test saw him explode back into the bulldozing form that scattered defenders throughout the RBS 6 Nations. 8

MAKO VUNIPOLA: The prop is used to his younger brother Billy taking centre stage, but this tour was all about Mako. 9.

Backs

MIKE BROWN: Has earned a summer of rest after a mammoth season in which his trademark ferocity remained ever-present. 7

LUTHER BURRELL: Potentially a tour that could mark the end of his international career after being replaced 28 minutes into the first Test due to defensive failings. 4

DANNY CARE: The Harlequin is second in England's scrum-half pecking order but is ready to pounce if Ben Youngs fails to deliver. 6

ELLIOT DALY: Finished the series playing number eight in Sydney - a development no one except Jones could ever have predicted. 7

OWEN FARRELL: Jones talks about world class players and Farrell must surely be close to that status, not least for his astonishing accuracy from the kicking tee. 9

GEORGE FORD: The sight of Ford attacking the line and looking to release runners in Sydney bodes well for the future. 8

ALEX GOODE: The Aviva Premiership player of the season has been the best full-back in England, but Jones refuses to look beyond Mike Brown. 5



JONATHAN JOSEPH: Rarely seen as an attacking force, but Joseph is becoming an accomplished defender capable of driving opponents backwards. 7

JACK NOWELL: This tour confirmed everything we already knew about Nowell - fearless, nuggety, skilful and very effective. 8

HENRY SLADE: Never came into contention and it is hard to see how he fits into Jones' backline. 5

BEN TE'O: Headed Down Under amid expectation that he would be involved during the series, but instead was on a watching brief. 5

ANTHONY WATSON: Off colour for the first Test due to a virus, but his chip ahead for Brown's score in Sydney was perfectly weighted. 7

MARLAND YARDE: Talked up by Jones before the tour but dropped after the first Test. Promises much, but has yet to deliver. 6

BEN YOUNGS: Potentially England's scrum-half all the way through until Japan 2019, Youngs has enjoyed a superb series. 8

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Non league FOOTBALL



Matty Fanimo

Jet-heeled wideman quick to get a place at Margate

RELEASED Eastleigh whiz-kid Matty Fanimo has found a new club, signing for National League South outfit Margate.

When the 22-year-old winger joined the Spitfires last October, he was billed as one of the fastest players on earth.

But Fanimo, Chris Todd's first signing as manager, was slow to make his mark on the side and, at one stage, was taken out of the picture completely due to fitness issues.

Todd gave him another chance, but al-

though the jet-heeled wideman returned fitter, he was unable to make an impact in the National League run-in and was one of eight players released when the retained list came out at the end of the season.

Margate boss Nikki Bull, a good friend of Todd's assistant Ben Strevens, did his homework before signing the player.

Bull said: "Matty's 22 and he's exactly the right profile for what we want. He does not just tick some of the boxes, he ticks all of them. He will add genuine

pace on the wing which is something we didn't have last season.

"He's another one who has had a taste of the pro game and he's desperate to get back there. He's working with a personal trainer and you only have to look at what he's done over the summer to see how serious he is.

"Some of the sessions are really mind-blowing.

"He's coming to us in A1 condition and he knows that to fulfil his potential he needs to be playing regularly."

Terras boss left 'baffled' by claims of 'devaluing' league

Clubs are openly against idea of reserve entrants

WEYMOUTH Reserves' manager Bradley Asagba was left "baffled" by claims that his side's promotion may "devalue" Sydenhams One next season.

The Terras' second side had their quest to make the step up fully ratified at the league's AGM, with the league constitution passed by 26 votes to 20.

One of the big talking points of the evening, however, was the promotion of Weymouth Reserves to the next level after finishing third in the Dorset Premier League last season.

Club representatives, notably from Hythe & Dibden, Blackfield & Langley and Laverstock & Ford, vehemently argued that Asagba's men featuring in Wessex One would devalue the competition in a lively debate conducted without prospective member clubs in the room.

Furthermore, those existing clubs opposed to reserve teams entering the Wessex League, pointed out that it went totally against the rule book.

Speaking to *The Dorset Echo*, Asagba, who was not at the meeting, said: "Obviously I have seen across the board a few quotes from people there, so I guess you have to take those quotes as what was said.

"I am a bit baffled by it, to be completely honest.

"You see quotes attributed to the idea that we would 'devalue' the league. Whether that's because they think we are a poor side and we are not going to be competitive, or in terms of our set-up and facilities, or in terms of our name, I am not too sure. Everybody is entitled to their opinion - they have made their opinion quite clear in what they think about us but it is up to us to get on with it.

"What other people think or whether other people think we bring any value or not, or whether they like us



Weymouth Reserves celebrate a goal. Left - boss Bradley Asagba.



or not, is, to be quite frank, quite irrelevant to me and irrelevant to everybody else. The constitution is what it is and everybody just has to get on with it, to be honest."

He added: "I guess within that set-up there are a lot of clubs that have been there for quite a long time and a lot of clubs that feel they are very much established at that level.

"Maybe they think that a team that finished third in the Dorset Premier League are not necessarily going to bring too much to the table.

"Whatever their case or issue, it is up to us to prove with our performances on the pitch at least that we are competitive enough and we are not going to bring the overall standard down."

Whelan in for Whites

WITH 54 games under his belt, Tom Whelan was Salisbury's leading appearance maker in their Sydenhams Premier title-winning season of 2015/16.

And with several other clubs vying for the 20-year-old's services, it was with much delight that the Whites were able to announce that the gifted, young midfielder had decided to stay put.

Whelan joined the Old Sarum club from Poole Town last summer and soon established himself as one of their most promising prospects.

"I'm delighted Tom has agreed to stay," manager Steve Claridge said of the Salisbury FC Supporters' Club young player-of-the-year.

"He is a talented player more than capable of stepping up to Evo-Stik Southern League Division One South & West."

The holding midfielder, who netted 13 times, is among a squad that is nearing completion ahead of Whites' warm-up opener against newly-promoted Bristol Rovers on Saturday, July 9 (1pm).

Whelan said: "I'm happy to have re-signed because I feel the club is going somewhere.

"I think we have to set ourselves the task of winning promotion.

"I believe we are good enough to win it with the players we have at the club."

Claridge intends to run the rule over "quite a few trialists" during pre-season. "I've got one or two slots I want to fill.

"We need a bit more up front, for example," he said.

"The good thing is that so many of last season's squad that we wanted to keep are returning and we've added quality players like Justin Bennett, Lewis Benson and Josh Warren.

"Now is not the time to be hasty and just get players in.

"What I am not going to do is pay over the odds for anyone.

"There are a couple I have been interested in, but they wanted too much."



Tom Whelan

Non league FOOTBALL



Adam Linaker

Linaker to step away from Blues first team duties

SHARPSHOOTER Adam Linaker is stepping away from first-team duties at Portland United.

Linaker helped the Blues to a number of Dorset Premier League titles before their return to the Wessex fold and was part of the squad that secured the Sydenhams Division One title last term.

The frontman scored 20 goals in 27 league appearances for the Blues in 2011/12 and followed it up with 22 strikes in 23 games the year after.

Portland boss Gary Bailey said: "Adam is not going to disappear completely.

"He has been a fantastic servant to the club and will remain on board in not such an immediate capacity.

"He will maybe play a few games for the reserves and be there should I need him."

Meanwhile, with the Blues' Sydenhams Premier fixtures now out, Bailey is looking forward to getting their campaign underway at Ver-

wood Town on Wednesday, August 3.

"This season we are a bit more familiar with the travelling and we have played three or four of the teams from this league last year and had a real taste of it," he said.

"It's a nice start and Verwood is not too far to go.

"There will be a buzz about it with Gavin (Reeves, new Potters' manager) taking over and probably some fresh faces there that will want to impress him."

Williams on move

FORMER Folland Sports wideman Rory Williams has become the second player to swap Gosport Borough for Havant & Waterlooville this summer.

Having run Wessex defences ragged as a winger, Williams successfully climbed the pyramid into the National League South with Gosport where he excelled as an attacking full-back.

He follows in the footsteps of central defender Ryan Woodford who recently returned to Havant from Privett Park.

For both it will be a step down the pyramid - though hopefully just a temporary one - following the Hawks' relegation from the National League South to the Ryman Premier Division.

Admitting he had been a long-time admirer of Williams, H&W boss Lee Bradbury said: "I have always been impressed with him whenever he has played against us.

"He is a modern-day full-back who likes to get forward.

"He is another player who is young, local and hungry to do well and that is what I am looking for."

● **CARL** Poore has wished departing duo Paddy Hester and Nick Swann well in their respective quests to make an impression in the Southern League.

New Hamworthy United boss Poore saw both players head for the exit door before he had held a pre-season training session.

Ex-Cherries youngster Hester has left the Hammers for Wimborne Town in Division One South & West, while teenager Swann has been snapped up by Premier Division outfit Dorchester.

Poore said: "I spoke to Paddy and told him he should go to play at the highest level he could and that the door would always be open.

"He was honest with me and said he wanted to try Southern League football and I would never want to stand in anyone's way.

"I don't know a great deal about Nick, I hadn't seen him play, but I wish him all the best at Dorchester.

"The key to these moves is patience, particularly for youngsters like Nick."



Rory Williams

Boatmen agree sponsorship deal for home and away kits

Firm signs deal to support club for next three years

SHOLING are thrilled to have secured a home and away shirt sponsor for the next three seasons.

Whelan Pest Prevention is the latest local business to give their backing to the Boatmen ahead of the new Sydenhams Premier Division campaign.

WPP's owner and founder Sean Whelan, a well-known face at Sholing - where he was a former chairman - and Eastleigh, said: "I have supported local football in many ways over the past few years and love the grassroots football scene in particular.

"The footprint they have at Sholing epitomises what local football is all about. It is a growing club with a strong youth set-up and a visible presence in the local community."

In 10 years WPP have rapidly become the UK's number one independent pest prevention business and Whelan is urging other firms to follow their lead by supporting the grassroots game.

"Local football cannot reach its sustainability without the help of local business and I encourage all local companies, be they large or small, to engage with clubs in their community," he said.

"Sholing, for me, is a great club, it's my local club and we are delighted to agree to sponsor them for the next three years."

Gerry Roberts, the Boatmen's chairman, described WPP's backing as "a great endorsement of what we are doing at Sholing".

He said: "This will help us grow, both on the pitch and off it, as we aim to not only move up the football pyramid, but do it in a sustainable way with the support of local business.

"If your business wants to get involved, have some fun and gain exposure, we have a host of sponsorship opportunities available.

"For example, a six-foot pitch-side banner for a whole season costs as little as £250."



Whelan Pest Prevention's Sean Whelan (centre) with Sholing players Barry Mason, Byron Mason, Pete Castle and Dan Mason. Below: Lee Mason



Contact club secretary Greg Dickson on 07496 80455 or at secretary@sholingfc.com.

● **SHOLING** goalkeeping has

reached the end of an era.

After eight seasons with the Boatmen, Lee Webber is hanging up his gloves.

Webber joined the club in 2008/09 from Fareham Town where he made a colossal 442 appearances.

That staying power held strong with the Portsmouth Road outfit for whom he played 155 first-team games and, as a coach, helped develop such talent as Scott O'Rourke, Alex Dunning, Matt Brown, Matt Renouf, Ryan Gosney and Jordan Brooks.

Now, at 38 and with a young daughter, the popular 'keeper wants to spend more family time and follow her gymnastics career.

"I've a lot of time for all the people dedicated to Sholing FC, with so many good people behind the scenes as well as the tremendous support of the Ultras that lift the boys home and away," said Webber.

"I will be looking in on games when time permits, but I feel the time is right for me now to complete my football journey and give some precious time back to my family."

Non league FOOTBALL



Tom Prodomo, right

Boss: foundations are key to seeing beyond survival

TOM Prodomo reckons the key to Bashley looking beyond survival rests on laying long-overdue foundations.

The Foresters' boss admits his initial target for the forthcoming campaign is to stay in the Sydenhams Premier after finishing rock bottom of the Southern Premier or Division One South & West in each of the past three seasons.

But Prodomo insists that will only be possible if the club can retain a

core of players instead of thinking season to season.

He told The (Bournemouth) Daily Echo: "For us, it is about building a squad we can add to over the coming years."

Big overhaul

"We have to make sure this time next year that we have a squad we can build on rather than having another big overhaul. That has happened over the past few years and it

is not sustainable every summer.

"Success for me at this stage would be to get a group of players good enough to stay in the Wessex Premier and to then start looking up the table from there."

"We need to be in a position where we are adding to our structure as we go along rather than rebuilding it all the time."

Bashley are due to kick off their league campaign at home to Hamworthy United on Tuesday, August 2.

Dual-registered striker will be 'staying at Christchurch'

Hotshot who rattled home 27 goals in 26 appearances last season is 100 per cent committed, says manager

MANAGER Ollie Cherrett insists top scorer Luke Stone is "100 per cent committed" to remaining at Christchurch.

The Hurn Bridge hotshot rattled home 27 goals in 26 appearances last season while also dual-registered with big-spending Dorset Premier League champions Shaftesbury, writes *Andy Mitchell*.

With both clubs now in Sydenhams Wessex One, the rumour mill had started to churn over Stone's future, but Cherrett was quick to allay any Priory fears.

"Luke is 100 per cent committed. He likes playing for us, enjoys being part of this squad and lives very close," he said.

"His granddad comes to watch every week and that's a big part of it too. He is happy and wants to enjoy his football above all else."

"People keep saying Luke could do this, that or the other, but he played in the Dorset Premier for four seasons, proved himself as the top striker and then stepped up to Wessex One."

"Now he wants to win the golden boot at this level and get us back to the Premier Division before taking on the next level, hopefully with us."

"The rumours have not just been about Shaftesbury. I heard he would be off to Wimborne, Bemerton or even Poole, but he has agreed to stay with us."

● AFC STONEHAM expect a sizeable crowd for Tuesday's eagerly awaited pre-season friendly against National League neighbours Eastleigh.

And they are hoping that the Spitfires fans who visit their Elliotts Arena home on July 5 (7.45pm) will be tempted to go back there when their number one team are away.

"It's very exciting to have such an excellent friendly," said Mark Stupple, chairman of the Sydenhams One

club. "It will be a great challenge for our lads playing in front of what will be, hopefully, a lot more spectators than for a normal Wessex League game."

"It is an opportunity for Eastleigh fans to visit our small ground as opposed to driving past it, which many probably do every day!"

"If they enjoy their visit we would hope some of them will return to watch us when Eastleigh are away."

The Spitfires have had a hectic summer, welcoming in no fewer than eight new signings to aid their push for the Football League.

Several of those newcomers are expected to be on show at the Elliotts Arena where admission will be £7 (including programme) for adults, £3 concessions and under-16s and free for under-12s accompanied by a paying adult.

Available car parking in the ground will be free.

FRIENDLIES 2016

Tuesday, July 5: AFC Stoneham v Eastleigh
Thursday, July 7: Banbury Utd v Eastleigh, Michelmersh & Timsbury v Fordingbridge Turks (at Wellow)
Saturday, July 9: Alton Town v AFC Totton, Fordingbridge Turks v Downton (Fordingbridge Rec), Salisbury v Bristol Rovers (1.00), US Portsmouth v Brockenhurst, Winchester City v Alresford Town.
Tuesday, July 12: Andover Town v AFC Totton, Chichester City v Salisbury, Fordingbridge Turks v Bashley (7.15, Fordingbridge Rec), Winchester City v Basingstoke Town.
Wednesday, July 13: Bush Hill v Brockenhurst (Mansel Park, 7.00), Fordingbridge Turks v Poole Borough, Hamilton Academical v Eastleigh
Saturday, July 16: Basingstoke Town v Salisbury, Brockenhurst v Hythe & Dibden, East Kilbride v Eastleigh, Newport IOW v AFC Totton, Sutton Common Rovers v Alresford Town, Winchester City v Lynton Town.
Tuesday, July 19: Bemerton HH v Poole Town, Fleet Town v Winchester City, Laverstock & Ford v Brockenhurst, Salisbury v Portsmouth (7.00), Weymouth v Eastleigh
Thursday, July 21: Bemerton HH v Winchester City, Downton v Salisbury XI (7.30)
Friday, July 22: Eastleigh v Poole Town.
Saturday, July 23: Brockenhurst v Winchester City, Fordingbridge Turks v Hedge End Rangers.
Tuesday, July 26: Brockenhurst v AFC Totton,



Luke Stone

Eastleigh v Barnet, Salisbury v Yeovil Town (7.30)
Wednesday, July 27: Winchester City v Sholing.
Saturday, July 30: Eastleigh v Northampton Town, Fordingbridge Turks v Andover Lions, Salisbury v Weymouth, Winchester City v Godalming.
Tuesday, August 2: Winchester City v Blackfield & Langley (TBC).

Saturday, August 6: Fordingbridge Turks v Mudeford Men's
Saturday, August 13: Broughton v Fordingbridge Turks
Saturday, August 20: Fordingbridge Turks v Bournemouth Manor.

*Email your friendlies to wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

Spitfires reunite at Ebbsfleet

ONE ex-Spitfire has joined another at Ebbsfleet United. Fleet – managed by former Eastleigh skipper Daryl McMahon – have signed free-scoring forward Bradley Bubb from Oxford City.

Bubb, 28, was out of contract at Oxford having scored 18 goals in the National League South (NLS) and 24 in all competitions last term.

Now McMahon is hoping he will fire Ebbsfleet to glory after the Kent side suffered NLS play-off heartbreak.

Former QPR youngster Bubb averaged more than a goal every other game for the likes of Chalfont St Peter and Beaconsfield SYOB before moving to Farnborough in 2009.

Key cog

He helped the north Hampshire club to promotion from the Southern League and, alongside McMahon, was a key cog in their run to the 2010/11 Conference South promotion final.

An impressive 40 goals in 88 games for Farnborough earned him a move into the Football League with neighbours Aldershot Town in 2011 and it was while with the Shots that he impressed as a loan star for Eastleigh, bagging ten goals in 18 games in 2012.

After a short spell in Belgium with Royal Antwerp, Bubb returned to England to re-sign for Aldershot, moving on to Havant & Waterlooville in 2014.

City want under 16s

WINCHESTER City under-16s are looking to recruit players for a team in Division 3 of City of Southampton Youth League.

Any youngsters looking to develop their football skills and improve as a player please contact Ryan Andress on 07891 245839 or email on ryanandress@hotmail.co.uk



Bradley Bubb, left

Non league FOOTBALL



Colden Common veterans

Striking balance

VERWOOD Town will not be packing their side with Poole Town's emerging talent next season, according to new boss Gavin Reeves.

Reeves is a close friend of Dolphins manager Tom Killick, who sent some of his younger recruits to Potterne Park when Carl Poore was in the hot seat, writes Andy Mitchell.

But while the new man is keen to take advantage of having a National League South club on the doorstep, he wants to strike the right balance.

Reflecting on potential recruits, Reeves said: "I have spoken to Tom and he spoke about a couple of the under-21 players.

"They do have a couple of young lads we would like to look at and possibly integrate into the team and I am due to speak to him again.

"But I do want to keep a settled side.

"You can't rely on too many loan players, so I am mindful of that too."

Verwood finished 17th in the Sydenhams Premier Division last term and Alan Lay quit as manager at the end of the season.

Potters are due to open their league campaign at home to newly-promoted Portland United on Wednesday, August 3.

New club captain

EASTLEIGH have welcomed in a new club chaplain.

Jono Harvey takes over the role from Andrew Bird who has stepped down due to family commitments.

Harvey is already a familiar face at the Silverlake Stadium, having been involved with the Spitfires' community hub projects.

Welcoming the new chaplain to the Eastleigh family, the National League club's CEO Mark Jewell said he was looking forward to introducing Harvey to club staff, that he truly hoped he would be made welcome by all and that his skills would be put to good use.



Gavin Reeves, right

Common keep their chins up

COLDEN Common are facing up to life in the Hampshire Premier League Division One with a positive, progressive outlook.

Taking the plunge is a dubious 'first' for the club since it began its Hampshire League tenure in 1984, but no one is letting it get them down as they bid to bounce straight back.

Not only is manager Danny Barker working long and hard to boost his playing squad but, in harness with the committee, he is looking to bolster the 'back room boys' and those who run the club.

Common have entered a development squad (Colden Common Reserves) into the Wyvern Combination League East Division with Southampton FC coach Matt Powell integral in the running of it.

At Common's end-of-season presentation evening, held at the Rising Sun public house, the positive mood augured well for their first campaign in Hampshire's second tier since 1985/86.

Pride of place went to the over-40s vets, winners of the Southampton Saturday (SDFA) Over-40 Division – that trophy presented by esteemed SDFA official Colin Miles.

Vets manager Alan Darling chose the outstanding Norman Steel as his player-of-the-season, while the players voted unanimously for Simon Yeadon. A special 'We can't believe he is still so good at his age' award, instigated by Alan and Neil Barker, went to the evergreen Ian Nash.

Being first-team goalkeeper for Common last season was testing to say the least, but Max Rovetto was Barker's pick as player-of-the-season having continued to grow and improve throughout the campaign.

Matt Wardlaw collected the players' player trophy, while the most improved player award went to Alex Simmons.



Chairman Dave Hadfield presents Sam Dixon with the Clubman of the Year trophy



Simon Yeadon is presented with the Veterans Over 40 Division Winners trophy by Colin Miles

Vets' manager Darling walked off with the Committee Cup and the Chairman's Trophy went to Barker's (and previously Sam Dixon's) assistant Ken Brady.

The club's premier award, Clubman of the Year, was presented to Sam Dixon. The management role was

thrust upon Dixon late in 2014 and he rose to the challenge – on and off the park. When he handed over the managerial reins, he remained with the club, offering assistance wherever he could.

As club secretary Ian Steele put it: "Sam is steeped in the values of



Common Managers first team Player of the Year Max Rovetto is presented with the trophy by manager Danny Barker (left)



1st Team skipper Dan Hansford and Assistant Manager Ken Brady

Colden Common FC since his first appearance on our touchline as a six-year-old."

Both chairman Dave Hadfield and Eric Laversuch received long service awards from the Southampton FA for years of dedication to Colden Common FC.

Non league FOOTBALL



Marc Diaper

Hollick sorry to see left-back Diaper leaving Totton

AS a manager Steve Hollick was disappointed to see left-back Marc Diaper part company with AFC Totton.

But, as a friend, he wishes him all the very best working alongside his dad, Dave, back at Sholing.

Diaper Jnr ended the habit of a lifetime last summer when, after taking a year out of the game, he made a surprise return to football as an AFC Totton player.

Having spent well over a decade playing for his dad at Sholing, peaking with the 2014 FA Vase win at Wembley, it was something of a shock to see him swap the beloved red and white stripes for

Totton blue. Now, after one last season playing in the Southern One South & West, the 37-year-old has gone 'home' to Portsmouth Road where he'll be combining playing with managerial/coaching duties in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

"I am sorry to see Marc go," admitted Totton boss Steve Hollick.

Brilliant

"I thought he was brilliant for us.

"His work commitments in London meant he struggled to get back for Tuesday night games, but he was always very honest in what he did and he played re-

ally well for us. He was superb to have around the place.

"He's got an amazing manner about him and we will miss him around the dressing room, but he leaves us on very, very good terms.

"His heart has always been at Sholing and this opportunity to work with his dad as player-coach is a really good move for him and I think he'll excel.

"He's got an awful lot to offer and, if they (Sholing's players) listen to him, they'll do very well.

"As a manager, it's hard to lose him, but as a person I'm very pleased for Diaps that he's getting into coaching."

Munday picks up Hollick's gauntlet to Wessex players

Striker first to rise to the manager's recent challenge

AFC TOTTON boss Steve Hollick recently threw down the gauntlet to Wessex players, daring them to break out of their Sydenhams comfort zone and test themselves in the Southern League.

The first to accept that challenge this summer is striker Dan Munday, who has made the step up to Totton from Blackfield & Langley where he netted 25 goals in 42 appearances (31 starts) last term.

An ex-Dorchester and Poole Town player, Munday had a brief taste of Southern One South & West football with Wimborne Town last term and is hungry for more.

"Dan wants a good crack at it if he's going to make the step up and that's half the battle," said Hollick. "He's only young and it's easier to persuade someone like him who wants to play at this level and is not so worried about the travelling than it is to persuade someone who is longer in the tooth to make the step up.

"Dan will add competition for front-line places.

"We've already got the experience of Nathaniel Sherborne and Mark Gamble and the youth of Dylan Knight who is keen to impress. Dan's in that same mould as Dylan and the four of them will have a good tussle for the two shirts.

"Dan does all his work around the box, he's quite quick and he's a natural finisher.

"We've got two superb wingers in Mike Gosney and Nick Watts who should provide ample ammunition for these guys. If we can get that supply line going, it will be really good for this football club.

"We monitored Dan when he was at Blackfield and it's always good when you highlight someone you'd like to sign and it comes off."

Totton, now back in training, ex-



Dan Munday, right, is making the step up to Totton from Blackfield & Langley

pect to make one or two more squad additions before the season gets under way.

"We needed to freshen up a bit. Dan's the first and hopefully there will be a couple of new faces or, if

funds permit, maybe a few more," said Hollick.

"Our squad is small but we've got a nice, tight-knit group and the camaraderie is excellent.

"These lads all socialise together

and Dan will fit nicely into that.

"Anyone we sign has got to be a good influence in the dressing room as well as outside on the pitch.

"We don't want anyone coming in and upsetting the apple cart."

Midson to line up for Braintree

JACK Midson will be playing against Eastleigh rather than for them next season after completing a move to National League rivals Braintree Town.

The 32-year-old former Oxford and AFC Wimbledon hitman scored 11 goals in 83 games for the Spitfires over two seasons, but was released by manager Chris Todd having failed to find the net in 2015/16.

"I think he got a bit frustrated last season, but he's raring to go and will do really well for us," predicted new Braintree boss Jamie Day, who has replaced Danny Cowley, now manager of Lincoln City, at the Iron helm. "Jack has a lot of experience at this level and above and I think he has a point to prove as he didn't score as many goals as he would have liked last year.

"I'm so pleased to have got him as his record shows what a fantastic player he is."

Midson joins ex-Saint Lee Barnard and Michael Cheek in what Day hopes will be a formidable frontline for last season's play-off semi-finalists.

"We have three lads now who can score goals and, if they perform to the levels that we know they can, we can expect 15 goals apiece from them and hopefully more," he said.

"Braintree were fantastic last year and we are looking to carry on the defensive work, but we're hoping to be a bit more attacking with the three lads on board with us."

● **MIDFIELDER** Perry Ryan has parted company with Gosport Borough.

Signed from neighbours Havant & Waterlooville last summer, Ryan featured heavily in the Gosport squad towards the end of the National League South campaign.

He has been released by mutual consent following an amicable meeting.

A Borough statement said: "The club would like to place on record their thanks to Perry for his services and wish him all the best in his future career."



Jack Midson, left

Non league FOOTBALL



Hamble Club celebrate winning the Hampshire Premier League in 2014/15.

Battle of Hambles an early fixture

WITH Folland Sports relegated from the Sydenhams Division and Hamble Club promoted from the Hampshire Premier League, the scene is set for a couple of tasty local derbies this season.

But much as Hamble Club co-manager Ben Kneller relishes the prospect of trying to get one over on his old club, he has a certain sympathy for his opposite number Dave Herbert at Follands Park.

Having picked up the pieces after a catastrophic start to 2015/16, Herbert ran into more problems recently when his newly-appointed co-boss Rich Bessey had a change of heart about joining.

The Wessex One fixture list has thrown up a late summer battle of the Hambles with the sides due to meet at Follands' Kings Avenue base on Tuesday, August 30.

Kneller said: "We've got an early meeting at their place and when they to come ours we'll try and fix that up for a Friday night to get a bigger crowd in."

"I saw Dave Herbert recently and I feel for him. They've been unlucky."

"Hamble Club are good friends with Follands and I enjoyed the games I played there, it's a good club."

"Dave was with us at Hamble Club for a while too and the sessions he put on fitness-wise were really good."

Although Bitterne-based Kneller's priority is continuing Hamble Club's climb, he would like to see all the Southampton sides flourishing.

"We're looking forward to the local games in Wessex One," he said.

"Much as it's great to travel, there are so many good teams in the Southampton area now."

"Stoneham are on the up and we had a good battle with them the year they went up from the Hampshire Premier. Then there's Romsey, Totton & Eling etc - so many good clubs."



Dave Herbert

Monks vow to carry on with bid to better league success

THEY are nicknamed The Monks and affectionately refer to their ground as 'The Abbey'.

And when it comes to vows, Hamble Club - one of four new faces gracing Sydenhams One next season - will go all out to achieve a top-three finish, writes Wendy Gee.

Two seasons ago The Monks marked their return to the Hampshire Premier League by winning it at the first attempt but, at the time, they didn't have the facilities to go up.

Now 'The Abbey' is fine nick and, although Hamble were shut out of the 2015/16 HPL top-two by champions Baffins Milton and Otterbourne, co-manager Ben Kneller reckons The Monks fully deserve their Wessex status. "We won the Hampshire Prem at our first attempt but our facilities weren't ready and this year we applied to go up and came third," he said.

Exciting news

"As much as people say we didn't win the league, our number one priority was always to get in Wessex One and, now we're there, our aim is to finish top-three and get into the Wessex Premier."

"The ground looks great - a stand's gone up, we've got a new pavilion, changing rooms and a hospitality area - and we've got some really exciting news on the youth side."

"Matt Beckingham, who runs Soccer 4 All Youth FC, is coming over and bringing teams from under-sevens to under-15s."

"They were connected to Follands (neighbours Folland Sports) at one time before Danny Bowers left. Matt



Striker Doug Rowe re-signs.

said a few other clubs were interested, but he didn't want to lose all the kids he's got."

Formed in 2009/10, Soccer 4 All was recently crowned Charter Standard Club of the Year for the Southampton Divisional area by the Hampshire FA.

While Hamble Club itself may be new to Sydenhams One, many of their squad are well versed with Wessex and even Southern League football - and, in Ross Bottomley's case, the Conference South.

As Kneller, who is stepping up this season to share the managerial load

with Scott Marchant, put it: "We're spoilt for players."

The likes of Matt Troon, Rory Anderson, Liam Crook, PJ McLean and Mike Byrne have all played higher.

And even though it looks as if ex-Eastleigh and AFC Totton centre-back Bottomley could be heading back to the Southern League with Winchester City, there are plenty more lads with proven Wessex pedigree.

Jamie Mansell, Wayne Boud and Matt Burt have put pen to paper, goalkeeper Sam Webb has been to training and the re-signing of striker Doug Rowe has been hailed a real coup by 29-year-old Kneller, who was himself a handy frontman before injury intervened.

"We're buzzing to get Doug," he said. "Chichester were sniffing round because Doug used to play for their manager Miles Rutherford at Moneysfields."

"We're lucky to be drafting in good players and we're all excited for the new season. It's going to be fun."

"The facilities look good and to have an in-depth youth set-up is great. We'd like to mirror what Sholing have done. Winning the FA Vase might be a step too far, but we want to build an infrastructure and give the club an identity."

"We're always looking for extra people behind the scenes and our door is open to anyone to come along and help out."

"We're looking for sponsors too. We're not after mega-money, just a bit of support for a local side."

Kneller can be contacted on 07823 776362.

Non league FOOTBALL

Duffy's departure a blow to defence

Eastleigh left with just two centre-backs after about-turn

CHRIS Todd is one experienced centre-half light as Eastleigh enter their first full week of pre-season.

But it will take more than Richard Duffy's surprise U-turn back to the Football League to dent the boss's optimism heading into the new National League campaign, writes Wendy Gee.

Although Todd has known fellow Welshman Duffy for years, he was as surprised as anyone when the 30-year-old centre-back dropped the bombshell news that Notts County had come in for him and he wanted to go.

Just a month previously the former Swansea and Exeter City man had agreed a two-year contract with the Spitfires having turned down the offer of a new deal with League One Port Vale where he had spent the previous four seasons.

"I knew nothing of it beforehand," said Todd of Duffy's change of heart.

"The fact of the matter was that everything was sorted and we were looking forward to seeing Duffs for pre-season.

"But I've known him a number of years, we had a good chat, he explained the situation and I told him that if he wanted to play in the Football League, we were not the kind of club to stand in his way.

"We don't want to tread on anyone's toes and make them unhappy and, in the end, we had to do the right thing for the player and for ourselves.

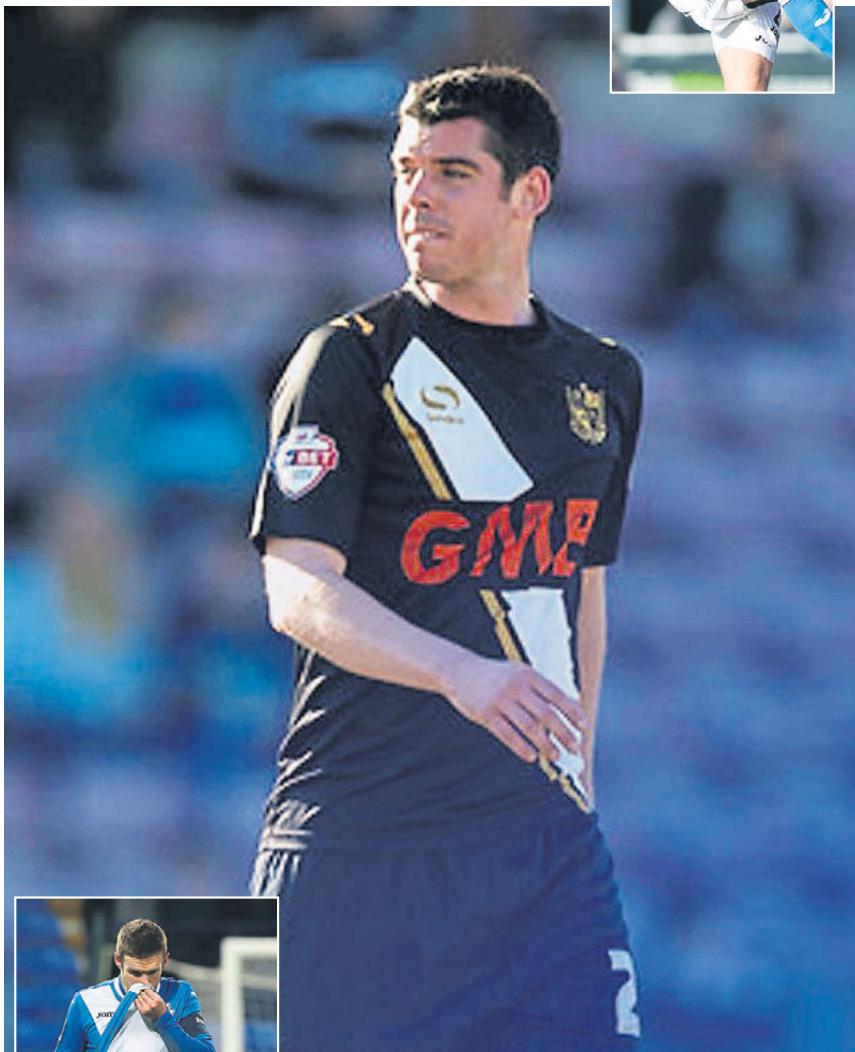
"Whilst I am clearly disappointed that Richard will not be joining my squad for the 2016/17 campaign, it is vital that the whole team are here in soul as well as body next season and that they are all fully focused on the job in hand.

"It is no secret that we will be going for promotion again this year – this is clear from the signings we have made so far this summer.

"I felt it was best that we allowed Richard to go elsewhere if he was not 100 per cent focused on the club's main objective."

Todd added: "We wish Duffy well and I know he's thankful to us for being so understanding.

"Notts County are close to where he's based and if he'd



Richard Duffy, main pic, Paul Reid (inset left) and Will Evas (inset top)

Will Evans both released at the end of last season and Jamie Turley signing for Newport County, Eastleigh are left with just two centre-backs – new arrivals Connor Essam, 23, from Leyton Orient, and 28-year-old Adam Dugdale from Morecambe who stands 6ft 4in.

But knowing that Joe Partington is able to switch across from right-back is a comfort for Todd who can bide his time replacing Duffy, particularly now that the National League transfer window has been scrapped.

"You can't dwell on these things. One player doesn't make a team," he said. "And what we've got is very strong.

"I'd like to thank the chairman

Stewart Donald for the way he has supported me. I'm feeling very happy and very positive.

"With all the new boys coming in, starting training is a bit like the first day at school!" he smiled. "We're going to work hard as a group and make sure we leave nothing behind.

"We've got a nice pre-season tour of Scotland and I'm excited."

Eastleigh's first friendly is this Tuesday (July 5, 7.45pm) at Sydenhams One neighbours AFC Stoneham, and Todd intends to take a sizeable squad.

"We'll play some first-team, some of the new faces and some young lads just to get a few minutes under their belts," he said.

Todd: Scrapping transfer window 'not a good thing'

EASTLEIGH boss Chris Todd is not in favour of the scrapping of the National League transfer window – even if it might do him a favour in the short term.

Knowing the window won't slam shut at the end of August means he needn't rush into replacing centre-back Richard Duffy, who did a swift about-turn back to the Football League with Notts County this week.

But, overall, Todd doesn't welcome the fact that, from now on, clubs will be free to strengthen right through until the end of March.

"From a manager's perspective, I don't think it's a good thing for clubs to be able to sign players willy-nilly," he said.

"Week in, week out you're trying to plan for games but now a team could have three or four changes for any one game.

"I suppose it's a free market and potentially it will be of benefit to us if we have injuries, but overall it's not ideal.

"It'll be interesting to see how much change there is at clubs throughout the season."

Todd added: "We had no transfer window in the Conference South, but it's a strange scenario for a professional team and it will mean a bit more added pressure for players.

"They'll know that if they're not performing, clubs will be able to bring in players left, right and centre."

Outlining the rule change, a statement from the Vanarama National League said: "There are a number of changes this coming season which alters the way the 24 clubs in the Vanarama National League will be required to operate in respect of player registrations.

"There will be no longer be any 'Transfer Window' in August or January and with the removal too of 'Emergency Loans', clubs will now be permitted to loan a player at any time during the season in line with those terms which have been applied with clubs in the Vanarama North and Vanarama South.

"There will still be a limitation on the number of loans and no club will be able to name more than five players in any one competition fixture."

One man delighted with the news was Jay Saunders, manager of newly-promoted Maidstone United.

He told local press: "The transfer window going is a massive bonus.

"With the window in place, it makes life that little bit harder, especially in your first year up. We've got untried players and we need to see whether they can do it at that level.

"When you've only got until the end of August to bring people in, you end up running with a bigger squad in case there are lads who can't make the step up."



Eastleigh boss Chris Todd

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

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PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

**20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
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10 for Brighton Argus**

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be—clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the

competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday
9am,
7th July, 2016
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 9th July or Sunday 10th July 2016

An incident in a Eastleigh v Oxford match

Winners

Competition number S25

JACKPOT WINNER NO WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS

L Hine, Southampton, Hants
who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of £15

J Blakely	Southampton, Hants	J Maynard	Southampton, Hants
E Cobbold	Hamble, Hants	W McDonald	Southampton, Hants
K Collins	Southampton, Hants	M Mitchell	Southampton, Hants
A Cook	Southampton, Hants	D Naylor	Hythe, Hants
K Coxon	Bournemouth, Dorset	B Pyne	Southampton, Hants
J Darby	Southampton, Hants	R Ramsden	Southampton, Hants
M Fudge	Botley, Hants	E Sketcher	Southampton, Hants
E Gibson	Durley, Hants	K Smith	Southampton, Hants
B Grist	Southampton, Hants	B Thorn	Chandlers Ford, Hants
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Mexican waves. Singing. Chanting.

One side of the stadium in full voice. Now your side's turn. Now your side in full voice.

This is a football crowd doing what football crowds do best - creating a wonderful atmosphere.

Took ages to get in. Thousands outside, waiting for the turnstiles to open. Waiting for the moment when they can walk, jog, sprint even, to their favourite spot, within sight of the luscious green grass.

The wait was worth it, though. For this is one of the best atmospheres that this lifelong football supporter has ever heard, has ever been part of.

Indeed, it's a privilege to be here, in this football-type environment.

But not for a football game, though.

Not today.

Not in mid-summer, in England. In July.

Not at SW19, London.

Not at the Centre Court, Wimbledon.

Not when it's been lashing down for large parts of the first week of the most famous tennis fortnight in the world.

And not when the organisers had to break with tradition, as a result of a backlog of games, and schedule play on the middle Sunday.

For the first time ever, in the tournament's entire history stretching back to 1877.

One hundred and fourteen years, with never a ball hit in anger on the middle Sunday.

Until now.

This was history being made, and that is why Martin Hann - accompanied by his pregnant wife Fiona - picked me up from a party on the outskirts of Yeovil in the wee small hours to drive to west London.

We got there about 4am, and the gates opened six hours later.

We were delighted.

A policeman assigned to count the ever increasing flood of people wanting to be part of history told us we were about 6,000th in the queue.

That is a long queue. A very long queue indeed.

But the main arena held 12,000 people.

Unless we fell asleep and the sound of 6,000 people walking past us failed to wake us up, we were destined for one of sport's most iconic venues.

The Centre Court, Wimbledon, SW19.

Sunday, July 1, 1991.

The day they still talk about.

Still Wimbledon's most amazing day.

The greatest tennis tournament's greatest day.

And I was there.

On Centre Court especially, the atmosphere was incredible. All the seats were full by 12 when play started, and I have never heard so much noise, so much singing."

They are not my words. They tumbled out of the mouth of Chris Gorrington a few years later when he was asked for his recollections of that memorable day.

And Chris Gorrington should know what he's talking about. He was, after all, only the chief executive at Wimbledon.

Mexican waves were rolling around the seats, and the crowds, treated the players and ball girls and boys to a rapturous reception.

It appeared to be a different crowd from the normal."

There was one good reason for that, Chris.

It WAS a different crowd than normal. Vastly different.

No-one in the queue, whether you were first, second, 6,000th or 12,000th, was preparing, as the sun rose over west London, for a jolly good day out sipping champers and munching on overpriced strawberries and possibly watching a bit of lawn tennis, darling.

No, we were there to take advantage of £10 tickets, to watch some of the world's top players, and to help write a little piece of sporting history.

And how often do you, do I, do us, get the chance to help write history?

There are almost certainly people, and they will almost certainly be middle or upper class, who attend Wimbledon religiously every year, and who have NEVER witnessed the scenes Martin, Fiona and I were honoured to have seen.

Granted, some of those people - and they will definitely be upper class - would NEVER want to witness scenes like we saw.

They would be horrified at taking their seat in the sporting cathedral which is the Centre Court and have urban oiks sitting next to them signing and chanting AND STANDING UP AND TAKING PART IN A MEXICAN WAVE. At Wimbledon.

Those sort of people would look down their noses at people like me, who revelled in paying just a tenner to be part of history and having a damn good sing song at the same time.

Well, if you're one of those people, then one word.

Tough.

All sport needs to be more inclusive. Tennis is a wonderful sport but it's too middle class, too upper class. Always has been, still is, and always will be.

We need more crowds at Wimbledon like the first Middle Sunday, to make it less exclusive. That would be a starting step down the sport's road to Damascus moment.

It works both ways, though.

Football fans from certain social strata cannot complain that the middle classes have taken over our all seater Premier League stadia, while the traditional supporter - white, working class, male - has been squeezed out.

We cannot complain, not if we want to see other sports opened up in the same way.

English football had to become more inclusive, in order to progress. In order to put the bad days behind them, behind you and me, behind those of us who remember the days when we considered social pariahs to admit liking a game which, if you were particularly unlucky, could kill you.

In some ways tennis is my favourite sport.

Seriously, it is.

This is why: Tennis is a heady cocktail of so many factors. So many boxes are ticked.

Tactics. Tick.

Strength. Tick.

Stamina. Tick.

Subtlety. Tick.

Determination. Tick.

Movement. Tick.

You need to combine all those elements on a variety of a different surfaces.

You have to conquer hardcourt, grass and clay if you want to be considered one of the world's best.

Games don't last 90 minutes either. They can last hours. Three or four in a five-set thriller.

And never in the cooling rain. Always under warm cloud at best, and blistering heat at worse.

And never forget this, either - you

STUCK IN SUNDAY



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THE MIDDLE WITH YOU ...

are out there, in the spotlight, ON YOUR OWN.

Yes, your coach and entourage will be in the stand but, to all intents and purposes, you are on your own.

In a singles environment, you only have one person to blame if you lose. Yourself.

In football, you can have an off day but still end up a winner if most of your ten team-mates are on top of their game.

You can still take your place in the history books, even if you've had a personal mare.

In cricket, you can be dismissed for a duck and take no wickets. But you can still end up a winner.

In all team sports, you have to rely on others. You are out there in the spotlight, but by no means on your own.

Not in tennis. On the Centre Court, Wimbledon, you are on your own.

Unless you were Jimmy Connors, though.

More specifically, unless you were Jimmy Connors on the afternoon of July 1 1991.

As we waited with breath bated on Centre Court, we were all pregnant with expectation.

Including Fiona, who was pregnant literally as well as metaphorically.

This crowd, this atmosphere, was tailor made for James Scott Connors.

Jimmy, to us all.

Connors was more at home on hardcourts than grass, happier on the baseline than serving and volleying, but his record at SW19 was still impressive.

Two of his eight Grand Slam singles titles had come at Wimbledon, the second in 1982 when he beat arch rival John McEnroe in five sets.

Though his best days had long gone - he was now 38 - Connors still enjoyed a great relationship with tennis crowds the world over.

They loved his passion, his never-say-die spirit - four years earlier he had come from 1-6, 1-6, 1-4 down to win a game at Wimbledon - and the fact he was always quick with a quip. He was a showman, and he wore his heart on his sleeve.

Now here he was, entering the sporting cathedral to a tumultuous ovation. It was one of those moments where the hairs stand up on the back of the neck. Worship those moments, cherish them, for they come along all too infrequently in sport, as in life.

The script had been written. On people's Sunday, the people's champion would roll back the years against fellow American Derrick Rostagno.

If this had been pantomime rather than elite sport, Connors was the one we all loved to cheer, and Rostagno was undoubtedly the villain. He was Captain Hook to Connors' Peter Pan.

Rostagno had few supporters inside Centre Court, but he was determined to write his own script.

And write it he did. Unlike Peter Pan, Connors was not blessed with immortal youthful enthusiasm. A few weeks earlier he had been forced to retire in the fifth set against Michael Chang at the French Open due to a back injury, and Rostagno was no mug on

grass.

The previous year, he had dispatched McEnroe in straight sets in the first round at SW19 and he set up a meeting with Connors by knocking out the ninth seeded Pete Sampras.

1991 was the year Rostagno climbed to number 13 in the world. He would never go higher, and he would never silence so many again as he did this day on Centre Court.

For most of the game he moved around the court as if he was 13 years younger than his legendary opponent, and indeed he was.

Connors' spirit was certainly willing - has there ever been a more competitive player in high level sport? - but his body less so.

Rostagno romped into the fourth round for the first time ever with a straight sets victory.

It would be the last time Jimmy Connors ever played at Wimbledon, but at least he left the tournament with his head held high.

He didn't leave it after losing on an outside court to a virtual unknown in front of a couple of hundred spectators.

No, he left it at a Centre Court crammed to capacity and affording him a standing ovation like no other.

Connors' Wimbledon finale was similar to every other singles game we saw on Middle Sunday - over in straight sets. Not a real thriller to be found anywhere.

We were treated to the sight of Stefan Edberg and Gabriela Sabatini, two more of the top names in world tennis, rattling off straight forward straight sets victories.

In truth, the crowd deserved better than these one-sided encounters, but they ended up being to our advantage.

Because all the scheduled singles games had been wrapped up early, the organisers sneaked in a previously unscheduled mixed doubles match.

This ensured no-one left early, not that anyone wanted this remarkable day to end.

Our appetites were duly whetted by the announcement that Steffi Graf, the greatest player currently on the women's circuit, would be partnering a man who makes Jimmy Connors seem a shrinking violet.

Henri Leconte, French showman extraordinaire.

Six years earlier, Leconte had lit up Centre Court with a marvellous exhibition of strokeplay against Ivan Lendl.

The stony-faced Lendl looked even more miserable than usual, if that were possible, as Leconte produced a blizzard of winners from all parts of the court.

You can watch it on YouTube. Go on, you know you want to. Forehand, backhand, down the line, across court, serve and volley, a subtle drop shot to clinch his four set victory. Wonderful footage, sport as pure theatre.

One shot remains in the memory. Leconte down in the bottom right hand corner of our television screen, attempts to lob his opponent.

Lendl, though, quickly reacts, backpedals, and smashes an overhead volley into the opposite side of the screen.

Continued on page 37

Over sixty-six years, lots of abject misery

ENGLAND were dumped out of the European Championship by Iceland, ranked 34th in the world, at the last 16 stage.

It was an abject display by Roy Hodgson's men but not the first time the Three Lions have been humiliated.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at five other embarrassing losses:

United States 1 England 0 – 1950 World Cup
Entering their first-ever World Cup as favourites, England's squad in Brazil boasted names such as Stanley Matthews, Tom Finney and Billy Wright. But Walter Winterbottom's side were shocked in Belo Horizonte as, despite dominating possession and hitting a post, they were beaten by Joe Gaetjens' effort, with the USA's team of amateurs, postmen and funeral directors pulling off the biggest upset in the history of the sport at the time.

England 3 Hungary 6 – 1953 friendly, Wembley
Hungary were the best team in the world when they visited Wembley in late 1953 – but the fact they left England in tatters would resonate for years to come. A first defeat on home soil to a non-British or Irish opponent came at a cost as a Ferenc Puskas-inspired Hungary showed England's approach was antiquated – with Nandor Hidegkuti helping himself to a hat-trick.

Norway 2 England 1 – 1982 World Cup qualifier, Ullevaal Stadion
Defeat in Oslo was not a disaster as England still qualified for the 1982 World



Manager Sven Goran Eriksson, Steve McClaren and Sammy Lee

Cup in Spain. But the 2-1 loss to Norway – who finished bottom of the qualifying group – is better remembered for Borge Lilloen's superb commentary at the full-time whistle. "Lord Nelson! Lord Beaverbrook! Sir Winston Churchill! Sir Anthony Eden! Clement Attlee! Henry Cooper! Lady Diana! Maggie Thatcher – can you hear me, Maggie Thatcher! Your boys took one hell of a beating! Your boys took one hell of a beating," he bellowed. Bryan Robson had given Ron Greenwood's side the lead before Tom Lund and Halvar Thoresen turned the game in favour of the hosts.

England 1 Australia 3 – 2003 friendly, Upton Park
England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson fielded two different sides, making 11 changes at half-time. The Swede's experienced players had already slipped 2-0 behind at the break as Tony Popovic and Harry Kewell struck for the Socceroos. Francis Jeffers marked his debut with a goal – set-up by a combination of another pair of newcomers in Wayne Rooney, then England's youngest-ever player, and Jermaine Jenas – before Brett Emerton sealed a memorable evening for Frank Farina's side.

England 2 Croatia 3 – Euro 2008 qualifier, Wembley
A damp night in north London brought the curtain down on Steve McClaren's ill-fated reign as England coach as Croatia's victory saw the Three Lions miss out on Euro 2008. Scott Carson fumbled Niko Kranjcar's effort and Ivica Olic made it 2-0 inside 15 minutes. McClaren, watching on from underneath an umbrella on the touchline, saw his side rally as Frank Lampard and Peter Crouch scored – only for Mladen Petric to score a winner.

Who's got the best

ROY Hodgson's resignation as England manager concluded the largely disappointing reign in which he oversaw three major tournaments after his appointment in May 2012.

The search for his successor will begin imminently.

Here, the Sports Pink compares his record with the eight who came before him.

ROY HODGSON, 2012-2016

Games: 56. Wins: 33. Draws: 15. Losses: 8.

Hodgson began impressively when, appointed on the eve of Euro 2012 and with a limited squad, he led England through a difficult group, after which they were eliminated by runners-up Italy on penalties.

They then remained undefeated to seal automatic qualification for the 2014 World Cup, but despite reasonable performances were eliminated from the group stage after two defeats from three. They lost to Italy and Uruguay and then could not beat Costa Rica, drawing 0-0.

Ten victories from 10 games ensured both qualification and optimism for Euro 2016, but amid periods of promise England laboured through an easy group before disastrously losing to Iceland following a woeful performance.

FABIO CAPELLO, 2007-2012

Games: 42. Wins: 28. Draws: 8. Losses: 6.

The expensive Italian – who arrived with a glittering managerial CV including five Serie A titles and two Spanish titles – initially impressed in rebuilding England after their disastrous failure to qualify for Euro 2008.

He led them to revenge over Croatia in the process of reaching South Africa 2010, but England were appalling in the group stage and their second-round defeat by Germany.

It was a relief when he resigned in February 2012.

STEVE MCCLAREN, 2006-2007

Games: 18. Wins: 9. Draws: 4. Losses: 5.

Promoted from his role as assistant, McClaren made a significant call in dropping David Beckham from his first squad as he looked to create a new team.

He also appointed John Terry as his captain but, beyond the promise shown in his opening games, he never looked comfortable under growing pressure.

May never shake off the image of him standing under an umbrella as England lost 3-2 in the rain at Wembley to Croatia to end their hopes of reaching Euro 2008.

The Sun's famous headline was 'Wally with the Brolly'.



Roy Hodgson resigned as England's manager earlier this week after Euro 2016 humiliation.



Former England bosses Sven Goran Eriksson and Steve McClaren (centre) along with Sammy Lee.

A nation laughed, amid the tears.

SVEN-GORAN ERIKSSON, 2001-2006

Games: 67. Wins: 40. Draws: 17. Losses: 10.

The record of England's first-ever foreign manager looks better with each passing tournament.

But it should not be overlooked he struggled to win a major trophy with the finest generation of players the country has produced since 1966.

The likes of David Beckham, Steven Gerrard, Michael Owen, Ashley Cole, Frank Lampard and Rio Ferdinand were all regulars under him.

Quarter-final defeats at the 2002 (2-1 to Brazil) and 2006 (on penalties to Portugal after Wayne Rooney had been sent off) World Cups, either side of another at Euro 2004, represented underachievement with the quality he had throughout his squads. He did, however, inspire Rooney's finest international form, in 2004.

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England record?



Glenn Hoddle was in charge of England for the 1998 World Cup.



Fabio Capello, right, with his England captain John Terry.

'96 ensured the majority of players and supporters wanted him to remain in charge.

Had the vision to build on and in many ways improve Venables' team, and inspired England to beat Italy to automatic qualification for the 1998 World Cup, for which he dropped Paul Gascoigne and also left Saints legend Matt Le Tissier out.

Was later sacked because of his comments about disabled people, and returned to club management with Saints in early 2000. His not managed since leaving Wolves in 2006.

TERRY VENABLES, 1994-1996

Games: 20. Wins: 8. Draws: 11. Losses: 1.

Venables contributed to the public rediscovering their passion for the England national team.

He was appointed after Graham Taylor's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

Though England, as hosts, did not need to qualify Euro '96, they played some entertaining football as they reached the semi-finals, where they lost on penalties to Germany.

Venables' reputation perhaps benefited from him leaving the role at a good time.

GRAHAM TAYLOR, 1990-1993

Games: 29. Wins: 11. Draws: 11. Losses: 7.

Labelled a 'Turnip' by The Sun, Taylor's reign as England manager was one of consistent failure. He oversaw two draws and a defeat at Euro '92, when his decision to sacrifice Gary Lineker - one goal away from equalling what was then Sir Bobby Charlton's record - was widely derided.

England's attempts to reach the 1994 World Cup - the most recent time they have failed to do so - were equally disastrous. Taylor kept his word and resigned after they finished third in a group of six.

SIR BOBBY ROBSON, 1982-1990

Games: 73. Wins: 31. Draws: 25. Losses: 17.

After succeeding Ron Greenwood, the late Robson's first qualification campaign ended in their failure to reach the 1984 European Championships. The FA refused his offer to resign, and from that he led England to the 1986 World Cup where they were only eliminated when Argentina's Diego Maradona scored one of the finest goals in history, and the 'Hand of God'.

Qualification for Euro '88 was followed by three defeats and elimination at the group stage.

England again recovered, however, and after reaching Italia '90, only a penalty shoot-out defeat by Germany in the semi-finals prevented them reaching the final.

Experiments and risks to be avoided

ROY Hodgson's resignation following the humiliating Euro 2016 exit to Iceland has plunged English football into its latest crisis.

The FA is planning a widespread search for his successor, highlighting that time and nationality is no barrier as they look for the right person.

Whoever is appointed will have their work cut out, and the Sports Pink points out five areas where they need to avoid becoming unstuck.

DON'T PICK UNFIT PLAYERS
It is only natural to want the most talented players at your disposal, but is a 75 per cent fit Jack Wilshere really a better option than a fully-fit title winner like Danny Drinkwater? Leeds have had six managers since the oft-injured Arsenal midfielder last played 90 minutes, yet he made three underwhelming appearances at Euro 2016. It is not the first time that it has happened, but it should be the last.

DON'T LET PLAYERS RETREAT BEHIND HEADPHONES AT THE EXPENSE OF CAMARADERIE
The importance of 'getting in the zone' cannot be underestimated, but neither can talking through issues, complaints or even, on the odd occasion with England, what went right. Too often players walk around in their own bubble, headphones on or fiddling with their phones. The loss to Iceland led Chris Waddle, a World Cup semi-finalist, to angrily rebuke the headphone-clad, pampered generation.



England's Wayne Rooney dejected during Euro 2016

DON'T LEAVE PLAYERS IN DOUBT ABOUT WHO IS IN CHARGE
Whispers of discontent were often heard around Chantilly, where England were based - all too shortly - during Euro 2016. Reports of unhappiness with selection and formation then emerged after the defeat to Iceland, yet it was the players that let themselves and the country down. England's new manager needs to lay down the law and give little credence to suggestions he needs to earn their respect. Why should he respect them after this summer?

DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR TEAM AT KEY TIMES

England had three preparation matches in the build-up to Euro 2016 and won all of them, albeit not in the most convincing of fashions. It was a chance to try new things: the decision to give 18-year-old Marcus Rashford his debut paid off against Australia, whereas the attempt to play Jamie Vardy, Wayne Rooney and Harry Kane in attack together against Portugal did not. Rather than return to the tried and tested, though, Hodgson put all-time top scorer Rooney in midfield for the first time in his international career in the opener against Russia. It worked in the group stage but failed miserably against Iceland, with a team of players lacking confidence looking lost.

DON'T GET COMPLACENT
Hodgson made six changes for the final Group B clash against Slovakia, despite the fact topping the pool was far from assured. Lacking inspiration and coherence, England were held to a goalless draw in St Etienne as Wales pipped them and avoided the more treacherous half of the draw.

KEVIN KEEGAN, 1999-2000

Games: 18. Wins: 7. Draws: 7. Losses: 4.

A promising England team declined under him, and was fortunate to qualify for Euro 2000 where their naivety led to their disap-

pointing elimination at the group stage.

Keegan's passion was never in doubt, but his tactical nous, organisation and team-building ability was. The former Saints player resigned in the toilets after a 1-0 defeat by Germany at the last ever game played at the old Wembley Stadium in October 2001.

GLENN HODDLE, 1996-1999

Games: 23. Wins: 14. Draws: 4. Losses: 5.

Hoddle largely impressed, having been appointed at a difficult time to replace Terry Venables.

His predecessor's success at Euro

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Psychologist left baffled by England loss

ENGLAND'S players failed at Euro 2016 because of a lack of team direction and clear instruction, a leading psychologist believes.

Professor Cary Cooper also fears the team could be saddled with some heavy mental baggage following their humiliating loss to Iceland.

England have received heavy criticism after unexpectedly crashing out to minnows Iceland at the last-16 stage in France.

The 2-1 defeat in Nice has been described as one of the country's most embarrassing of all time and manager Roy Hodgson announced he would be stepping down immediately afterwards.

Cooper, professor of Psychology and Health at Manchester University, believes Hodgson failed to transmit clear messages to his players.

He said: "It's so sad. I've never seen such a poor performance. They weren't up for it and I don't understand why."

"They didn't gel as a team. That is the main criticism of Hodgson. For some reason he didn't know which team to put out there, he didn't know what players would fit together to make a team. That was obvious."

"It's almost like, 'I'm-not-quite-sure-what-to-do' management – not quite sure of the style of play, not sure who would go with who, what works, what



Former England boss Roy Hodgson

fits. That was the problem. He didn't do the business.

"I hate to be negative about him because he is a lovely man, a nice guy, he's done his best – but his best isn't good enough."

"Players need to know the manager knows what he's doing and I wonder whether they thought that or not and felt uncomfortable with all the changing."

Cooper does not feel all the blame should be pointed at Hodgson, however. He thinks the players failed to handle the pressure of expectation and that is something that surprises him, especially as England took an early lead.

He said: "Number one I think the manager got it wrong but the players are responsible too."

"You have everything to lose in terms of expectational pressure in this kind of scenario – you are playing a team from a country where only 40,000 males are of a footballing age; the expectations are overwhelmingly that you are going to win and you should be able to beat them."

"But you'd have thought after scoring a goal early they would settle down and think they would do it. Yet for some reason they didn't."

"They didn't look comfortable with the formation and strategy."

Who will survive

ENGLAND'S elimination from Euro 2016 could raise questions over the international futures of some players.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at what could be next for the squad.

FRASER FORSTER (age: 28; appearances in tournament: 0): Should remain in the frame but a fit-again Jack Butland could push him down the pecking order. Did not get a chance to show what he could do in the Euros, as – for the second tournament running – Roy Hodgson kept faith with Joe Hart.

JOE HART (29; 4): At fault for half of the goals England conceded in France. Got out of jail after failing to stop Gareth Bale's free-kick in the Wales clash, but there was nobody to save him in Nice as he embarrassingly failed to keep out Kolbeinn Sigthorsson's effort. Jack Butland and Forster are breathing down his neck

TOM HEATON (30; 0): Will need to perform well at club level to remain in the picture.

RYAN BERTRAND (26; 1): An injury in the build-up saw Danny Rose jump ahead of him in the battle for the left-back spot. The Saints player did a solid enough job against Slovakia, but his biggest impact was the flailing arm that left Peter Pekarik bloodied.

Chances could be limited by the return of Luke Shaw.

GARY CAHILL (30; 4): When Sigthorsson jinked past him on Monday, the centre-back could hardly have imagined the striker would score the goal that sent England home.

It was more Hart's fault than his and, while there were a few hairy moments, overall was decent enough after a topsy-turvy season with Chelsea.

Time has not yet run out and his experience could be important in a position where competition is limited, but John Stones could have taken over come 2018.

Pushing

NATHANIEL CLYNE (25; 1): Of the well-documented six changes Hodgson made against Slovakia, the former Saints right back produced the best display. The Liverpool player is likely to keep pushing Kyle Walker for his spot.

DANNY ROSE (25; 3): Looked at home at his first major tournament, attacking impressively while keeping a focus on his defensive work. Helped provide width often lacking further up the field.

Form for Tottenham earned him his place but could also find himself under pressure if ex-Saint Luke Shaw fulfils potential when he returns to full fitness after a bro-



Will Fraser Forster now get more chances at the expense of Joe Hart?



Saints left back Ryan Bertrand in Euro 2016 action against Slovakia's Robert Mak

ken leg suffered last September.

CHRIS SMALLING (26; 4): One of Manchester United's star men in a troubling campaign, he continued to look solid in France, albeit without the same edge. Did not dominate the backline as he has done at club level.

Generally sound, in the main, and set to continue, possibly in partnership with Stones.

JOHN STONES (22; 0): Damaged during Everton's underwhelming season but remains an excit-

ing prospect and some decent club form next term should earn a prolonged run. Was one of only two outfield players not to get any game time in France.

KYLE WALKER (26; 3): Produced impressive performances in the first two Group B matches at the Euros, winning the man of the match award against Wales. However, he was caught out horribly as Iceland levelled on Monday.

Overall, he was one of England's best players at the tournament. But, with question marks over his

defensive work, Clyne will be a serious threat to his prospects of keeping the right-back slot.

DELE ALLI (20; 4): So impressive last season for Spurs, the PFA Young Player of the Year was unable to replicate that form in France. A threat at times, yes, but not with the same regularity playing a deeper role than at club level.

His talent is not in doubt and more opportunities will come.

ROSS BARKLEY (22; 0): Picked on potential rather than form after

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Euros nightmare?



Former Saints right back Nathaniel Clyne in Euro 2016 action against Slovakia's Juraj Kucka



Ex-Saints skipper Adam Lallana on the ball during England's Euro 2016 group game with Slovakia

a disappointing season for Everton, will need to bounce back. Like clubmate John Stones, he did not appear at all during Euro 2016.

ERIC DIER (22; 4): Did not seem himself when replaced at half-time against Iceland after three impressive displays in defensive midfield. Acted superbly as a shield for the backline and provided options in attack, scoring a wonderful free-kick against Russia. England's best player of the tournament.

Should have no problem finding a

role in the system of any new manager.

JORDAN HENDERSON (26; 1): Another coming in off the back of injury but performed much better. Worked tirelessly against Slovakia, throwing in crosses as England searched for an elusive winner.

Now needs to step up and deliver consistently for Liverpool to keep himself ahead of the competition.

ADAM LALLANA (28; 3): Started all three Group B matches, only to

be dropped in Nice. Finishing let the former Saints midfielder down in France, but his pressing, vision and determination impressed. Lacked end product, however, and may need to prove his value to a new manager.

JAMES MILNER (30; 1): A conservative introduction as England looked to hold onto their lead against Russia, he had no major impact on his only appearance. Included for his consistency over many seasons but was a peripheral

figure and may now slip out of the reckoning.

RAHEEM STERLING (21; 3): Called himself 'the Hated One' after the draw with Russia and England fans were quick to get on the winger's back, seemingly hitting his confidence further. Hesitant in dangerous areas and made more bad decisions than good. It was a poor display in France.

Needs to take the blow to confidence and come back firing.

JACK WILSHERE (24; 3): Concerns over the highly-talented but off-injured midfielder were widespread in the build-up to the tournament, and justified. A shadow of the player he can be after a season on the sidelines.

Wilshere was not ready for tournament football after an injury-ravaged season. Should not be jettisoned but needs to get back playing regular football.

Bumbled

HARRY KANE (22; 4): The Premier League top scorer lacked that same killer instinct for England. Quick to deny tiredness had taken away his edge, there was clearly something wrong as he bumbled through the tournament.

Remains one of the leading forwards.

MARCUS RASHFORD (18; 2): The wildcard in the pack, thrown on for a few minutes here and there in a desperate attempt to strike fear into defences. The 18-year-old was unable to make a telling impact, but made some promising plays.

Still has much to prove but early signs are very good.

WAYNE ROONEY (30; 4): The future of England's all-time top scorer is in midfield – a role he performed admirably at the start of the tournament. Against Iceland, though, he lost his way, with passing going awry and frustration bubbling under the surface as things went downhill.

Plans to carry on for the 2018 World Cup and will need to show more leadership when the going gets tough.

DANIEL STURRIDGE (26; 3): The last-gasp winner against Wales will live long in the memory, but there was precious little else of note. Starved of service, his undoubted ability was not utilised wisely. Needs to play regularly for Liverpool to regain spot as first-choice striker.

JAMIE VARDY (29; 3): A dream season ended in disappointment as his snapshot against Wales proved the only highlight. His skills were not harnessed like they are at Leicester, making him a far less effective player. Did not appear to be a clear role for him, much like the other attackers



Tyson turns 50 – facts

WITH Mike Tyson having turned 50 last Thursday, the *Sports Pink* explores some lesser-known facts about the former world heavyweight champion.

- At 11 years old, Tyson was a member of a gang known as the Jolly Stompers. While the older members would hold victims at gunpoint, he would clean out cash registers. By the age of 13 he had been arrested more than 30 times over his petty criminal activities.

- His first street-fight – before he began to box – came when he was 10 years old after a thug killed one of his prize pigeons.

- Ahead of his first amateur boxing tournament, he was so fearful he tried to locate the train station to return home. When he returned having not found it, he won after knocking out every opponent in the first round.

- In 1989, Central State University awarded Tyson, a high school dropout, an honorary doctorate of human letters for his positive influence on young people.

- During the prison sentence that began in 1992, he was found guilty of threatening a guard. The incident added 15 days to his six-year sentence.

- While in prison he converted to Islam, and adopted the name Malik Abdul Aziz.

- Having filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Don King in New York in 1998, he settled out of court for \$14 million.



Mike Tyson pictured in 1996

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Top tips for Wimbledon wash-outs

THE sun has not been shining on Wimbledon in 2016.

Instead, rain has been commonplace. Here, Press Association Sport suggests five things spectators could do to occupy themselves.

1. Queue to buy a second-hand tennis ball

Wimbledon balls are used for no longer than nine games but rather than be thrown away they are resold the next day. Fans can queue outside Centre Court at the 'Used Balls' kiosk and pay £3 for a tin of three balls that could have been used by anyone from Andy Murray to Serena Williams. The money raised from the sale of the balls is donated by Wimbledon to The School's Tennis Programme, with last year's offering £15,000.

2. Drink Pimm's

Nothing says British summertime more than a glass of Pimm's and nothing says Wimbledon more than a soaked punter making the best of it by sipping the Championships' traditional drink. Kiosks are selling Pimm's at £8.30 a glass this year and last year 320,000 units were drunk. If the same figure is reached this year, then the total will be just shy of £2.6 million – comfortably more than the winners on court will receive.

3. Buy a towel

The Wimbledon towel has become a talking point at this year's Championships, with



Rain at Wimbledon this week

each player being asked for their thoughts on the item by a particular member of the media. There are two towels available, one for the men and one for the women, and the fans can get a piece of the action too, for they are available in the Wimbledon store for £29.

Not only can the money buy you a terrific keepsake, it can also help you dry out which is much needed this week.

4. Eat strawberries and cream

This dish goes hand-in-hand with the Pimm's – the unofficial snack of the British summertime. Approximately 8,615 punnets are served each day at a price of £2.50 each. That means a spend of £280,000 on the fruit over the two weeks. Around 28,000kg of strawberries are consumed during the fortnight – 233 Marcus Willis' at his heaviest weight.

5. Take in some history

If fans have not grown tired of spending money, they can hand over some more cash for a trip around the Wimbledon Museum. Open to ticket holders only, it is priced at £13 for adults, £11 for concessions and £8 for children.

From Victorian tennis aprons to crisp Wimbledon whites, the museum offers a chance to get acquainted with tennis fashion throughout the ages. And oh, it also houses the original white dress worn by the famous 1970s Tennis Girl Fiona Butler which stands next to a copy of the sport's most famous poster.

England: Where it

WHEN England arrived at their Euro 2016 training base in Chantilly for the first time, Roy Hodgson took a moment to address the assorted local dignitaries and massed school children with a short speech in French.

This was the 68-year-old at his best, wearing his education lightly but adroitly, representing his country with a statesmanlike dignity on the global stage.

It is hard, for example, to imagine his one-time rivals for the job - Harry Redknapp or Sam Allardyce - reeling off a few phrases en Français with quite the same panache.

It was, though, probably the only occasion during the last few weeks that Hodgson was truly in his element.

For a man with 40 years of coaching experience in the bank, his work here was scatty and confusing.

The best teams in the competition have all operated with a clear focus and a clear common purpose; Hodgson's playbook has been a Jackson Pollock by comparison, though future collectors are unlikely to treat his work with such reverence.

No payback

It started with the squad announcement, during which Hodgson admitted he had 'robbed Peter to pay Paul' by bringing only three specialist centre-backs.

Among the factors that have precipitated England's downfall, the absence of Phil Jagielka in Gary Neville's defensive drills comes vanishingly low on the list but it was an early hint of clouded thinking in the camp.

Hodgson nominated Eric Dier as emergency cover only to find out that he was essentially indispensable as a midfield anchor; another position that was not adequately stocked.

So, while Peter was most definitely robbed, there was no pay-off for Paul.

England were top-heavy in attack, selecting five specialist strikers and two wide forwards in Raheem Sterling and former Saints skipper Adam Lallana.

Mantra

Hodgson talked excitedly about his options. His players repeated the mantra as they hyped up the Three Lions' goal threat.

But there was a bemusing lack of focus beneath the surface and four goals in 360 minutes of football - and one of them was a penalty - is scant reward for such supposed riches.

At times in France, Hodgson seemed like a spoiled child on Christmas morning - overjoyed with the number of new toys to play with but unable to offer any his complete attention.

Characterised by some as an inherently conservative coach, Hodgson became increasingly erratic in



England manager Roy Hodgson (left) and his backroom staff during the Euro 2016 exit to minnows Iceland.



England's Marcus Rashford (right) was limited to a couple of cameo appearances, including one against Iceland.

his approach to substitutions.

When things looked bad - and they did so more frequently than they should have given England's generous draw - he simply reached inside his stocking and plucked out another striker.

For a man admired throughout continental Europe as a thinker of the game, he was guilty of paint-by-

numbers tactics.

It did, of course, pay dividends against Wales as both Daniel Sturridge and Jamie Vardy stepped off the bench to grab victory from the jaws of defeat but that was a lone success.

In the stalemate against Slovakia and again in meek surrender to Iceland, the pitch became crowded

by finishers searching in vain for something to finish.

Vardy and Sturridge were forced out of position in the channels at times, Marcus Rashford reduced to a couple of bright cameos while Dele Alli was pushed further and further from his natural home at number 10.

The territory was saturated and

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Went so wrong ...



England goalkeeper Joe Hart (left), Dele Alli (centre) and Gary Cahill look dejected after the final whistle against Iceland.



England's Jamie Vardy looks dejected after the final whistle following the Iceland humiliation.

the defining qualities of several key men compromised.

There were other shortcomings too.

England railed against the suggestion that making six changes against Slovakia was a sign of over-confidence but it cannot be seen in any other light.

Hodgson is not naturally given to

hubris but the removal of Rooney and Alli from midfield was an error.

The logic from the camp was that this was clear-minded asset management, a necessary move in a long tournament.

But their involvement in it was shorter than they expected, and preserving energy for theoretical

challenges that did not come to pass looks painfully wrong-headed.

Rooney had never played in midfield for his country before the opening match against Russia and would have benefited from another outing as he figured out the complexities of a demanding role.

True, he was impressive in two of his three starts but quite why

Hodgson declined to try his captain even once in a playmaking role before committing to it at a major tournament will remain baffling.

Versus Iceland, Rooney was the worst player on the pitch. It was his third international start in a role others have been honing for a lifetime.

Jack Wilshere is one such player, but his very selection was a punt given his injury-wrecked season at Arsenal.

Hodgson sent his favoured lieutenant two SOS calls - starting the final group match and coming on after 45 minutes against Iceland - but he had neither the conditioning nor the rhythm to help.

At full-time in Nice, Hodgson's fate was sealed, his coaching epitaph reduced to the fact that he led one of the world's richest and best resourced nations to three tournaments and failed to win a single knock-out match.

Constant thread

The reasons, and the playing personnel, differed on each occasion but the constant thread between 2012, 2014 and 2016 was Hodgson.

English failure in that period does not lie at his door alone but there can be no doubts now that he was emphatically unable to end the country's barren run of 50 years and counting.

Hodgson had stressed in the build-up that his youthful side carried none of the baggage of the past, but they will be taking enough of their own back to ensure a hefty excess charge at the departures lounge.

As a dowry to his eventual successor, that is a final damning verdict on his tenure.

More T20 cricket, not less ...

FICA, the body representing cricketers worldwide, has demanded greater emphasis on Twenty20 as it offered its input on the reforms to the game currently being discussed by the International Cricket Council.

The ICC's annual conference in Edinburgh is considering proposals for a league structure for Test cricket as well as means of creating context for bilateral one-day international series, with day-night Tests and reform to the governing body's own structures also on the agenda.

The widely reported format for Test cricket under discussion involves two divisions, with seven teams in the top flight and five in the second and a promotion and relegation system also involving the associate-level Intercontinental Cup.

That would appear to fit with the vision for the future outlined by FICA - under its president, former West Indies batsman Jimmy Adams - in its annual International Cricket Structural Review.

FICA called on the game's bosses to "design future competition structures where countries of similar abilities in each format compete against each other in leagues or championships" and "develop a clear pathway and meaningful, meritocratic opportunity for developing nations".

More detailed recommendations relating to the balance of cricket's three formats, though, see FICA calling for a shift towards more Twenty20 cricket at the expense of Tests and ODIs.

While seeking to "protect the valuable history and heritage" of the longest format, FICA called for less Test cricket overall and for it to be played "only where the market exists and (a) strong four-day game exists" and in limited amounts outside of the proposed league structure.

Fifty-over cricket faced a more severe recommendation to "remove all bilateral ODI cricket in its current form outside of a new centralised structure" and "significantly decrease" the overall volume, along with a suggestion that "serious consideration should be given to the role of the ICC Champions Trophy".

By contrast, FICA called T20 "the vehicle to grow the game" and "the only viable format" for cricket to feature in the Olympics.

The suggested abolition of stand-alone bilateral series was repeated but alongside recommendations to "increase the volume of international T20" and "build a new centralised global competition".

A survey of 129 players from seven countries found that 93.8 per cent said DRS should be standard across all international cricket - in contrast to the current approach, whereby its implementation is decided series by series between the teams involved.

The survey found 65.8 per cent of respondents in favour of ring-fenced windows for domestic Twenty20 competitions such as the Indian Premier League and Australia's Big Bash League.

Nearly half of the players surveyed "would consider rejecting a national contract" if paid significantly more for freelance T20 work - with that figure lower, at 39.3 per cent, among better-remunerated English and Australian players but at 58.6 per cent across New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Bangladesh.

LOCAL CRICKET



Mid-table Fareham & Crofton are trying to kick-start their Hampshire League season at Shrewton today. After back-to-back wins over Burridge II and Ellingham, they

crashed to an eight-wicket defeat by Bishops Waltham and had last week's gamewith United Services washed out.

Standing (from left): Will Raymond, James

Headen, Sam Stoddart, Angus Southon, Ben White, Pete Briggs. Front: Morgan Frost, Ben Kissane, Tom Kent, Matt Gould and Vishal Sahu.

Bans for players

FIVE Southern Premier League cricketers have been banned and another four have received suspended suspensions for behavioural issues this season.

The latest sin-bins were announced this week, with three New Milton players hit with suspensions in the wake of last month's derby with Bashley (Rydal).

Skipper James Park, all-rounder James Haggaty and opening batsman Nick Park all received bans at a league disciplinary committee meeting.

James Park, who skippered New Milton to the Division One title last season, was given a three-match ban for "dissent and failing in his responsibility as captain".

Haggaty was issued with a three-match ban – with one match suspended – for "inappropriate language toward an opponent", while Nick Park picked up a one-match ban for "dissent".

The punishments were handed down after the league disciplinary committee had studied reports from match umpires Geoff Prouton and Stuart MacTavish.

James Park and Haggaty are understood to have served internal one-match bans – which count towards their respective punishments – when New Milton faced Hampshire Academy a fortnight ago.

Haggaty and Nick Park have completed their suspensions, but James Park missed today's visit to South Wilt.

Bashley (Rydal) seamer Kevin Nash and Totton & Eling all-rounder James Taylor have each served one-match bans this season.

The four cricketers to have received suspended bans are South Wilt's all-rounder James Hibberd, Chris Jolley (Basingstoke & NH), Bashley's Neil Thurgood, and Trojans all-rounder Jordan Wright.

Three Trojans players reported for alleged disciplinary breaches in a recent match against South Wilt's II are to have personal hearings before the Premier League.



James Haggaty

BACK PAIN MEANS ICON SMITH STEPPING DOWN

MAX Smith has called time on a career which saw the Old Tauntonians & Romsey all-rounder and former Lymington cricketer establish himself as one of the region's leading players.

Now, after a phenomenal 2015 season in which he scored six centuries and runs galore for both OTs and Hampshire Over-50s, he's publicly announced his retirement, writes Mike Vimpany.

"I suppose you could say I went out with a bang, scoring all those runs last year, but it wasn't so much fun when I was in agony with back pain for days after," he revealed.

"I'd taken the previous 2014 summer off to try and get my back sorted out, but it didn't work so now I've hung up the boots and am fully committed to my coaching role and helping young players to develop."

Smith, who is heavily involved in Hampshire junior age group cricket



Max Smith.

at the Ageas Bowl, has enjoyed a distinguished local career, which began in a batting and wicket-keeping role at Canford School, and later developed with stacks of tiny spin bowling thrown in.

He collected two Southern League

championship medals with Lymington in the early 80's, playing with some fine cricketers.

"Jon Hardy was on his way to becoming an established county cricketer and, of course, Andrew Jones went on to become a prolific run score in International cricket in New Zealand," Smith recalled.

"The late Peter Williams, from Eastern Province, was a class act, besides which we had guys like Jeff Hose and Peter Tapper in their prime.

"That Lymington team was brimming with talent."

Smith's Romsey days are etched in folklore.

"I formed a formidable opening partnership with Charles Forward and in one season we both scored 1,000 runs," he recalled.

"I remember scoring a double-century against Paultons that season and sharing an incredible opening stand of 346 with Charlie."

Romsey's debut 1996 season in the old Southern League coincided with Smith winning the overall batting

award.

"691 runs – nine scores of 50 or more and just missing out with an unbeaten 97 in one game," he smiled.

Smith went on to score over 5,000 runs and take over 300 Southern Premier League wickets, bowling his 'hard to get away' off-spin.

"I had the satisfaction of scoring at least one century in every SPL or Hampshire League division in which I played," he added modestly.

Plethora

All that largely happened before he became eligible to play for Hampshire Over-50s – the chance for him to go out in some style with a plethora of runs ... followed by that aching back!

His vet's career was relatively short – but highly productive.

Smith rattled off three centuries in the ECB 50-plus County Championship, with Berkshire, the Channel Islands and Cornwall on the receiving end last summer when his bat must have felt one foot wide!

LOCAL CRICKET

BASH'S RUN BELTER TOP OF THE CHARTS

BASHLEY (Rydal) captain Michael Porter, 21, is top of the charts – in more ways than one!

He's taken the New Forest club to the top of the ECB Southern Premier League table for the first time in 11 years – and established himself as the leading Premier Division run scorer in the process.

Porter's unbeaten 70 in last week's six-wicket win over South Wilts was the Dorset youngster's fifth 60-plus score of the summer and hoisted his run tally to 343. He is pictured by Roy Honeybone acknowledging his 50 against South Wilts.

Lymington all-rounder Matt Metcalfe tops the bowling charts with 20 wickets, while New Milton's Tom Arnold features strongly in two statistical columns, with 273 runs and 17 dismissals behind the stumps.

Premier Division

Batting: Michael Porter (Bashley Rydal) 343, Ed Ellis (Lymington) 329, Gavin Bailiff (Bashley Rydal) 283, Jake Winter (South Wilts) 279, Tom Arnold (New Milton) 273, Alex Glendenning (Ventnor) 267, Ben Walker (Havant) 257, Jake Goodwin (Academy) 243.

Bowling: Matt Metcalfe (Lymington) 20, Richard Hindley (Havant) 18, Julian Ballinger (Alton) 18.

Wicket-keeping: Tom Arnold (New Milton) 17, Sam Pittman (South Wilts) 11, Ben Woodhouse (Ventnor) 10.

Division 1

Batting: Basil Akram (Sarisbury Athletic) 341, Ryan Covey (Sarisbury Athletic) 287, James O'Gorman (Andover) 268, David Lloyd (Rowledge) 253, Matt Love (Hook & NB) 249, Suman Ganguly (Liphook) 234, Glyn Treagus (Andover) 217.

Bowling: Jeremy Warner (Bournemouth) 17, Dom Clutterbuck (Bournemouth) 14, Martyn James (Basingstoke) 14, Sushant Balajee (Rowledge) 14, George Keeley (Rowledge) 13.

Wicket-keeping: Chris Park (Bournemouth) 14, Chris Martin (Liphook) 12, Harry Hovey (Sarisbury Athletic) 10.

Division 2

Batting: Ed Boyd (Trojans) 380, Justin Reid (Tichborne Park) 301, Will Bond (Hambledon) 282, Dave Banks (Sarisbury Athletic) 274, Tom Pearce (South Wilts II) 246.

Bowling: Jamie Donaldson (Trojans) 16, Jeremy Frith (Sparsholt) 13, Mark Lavelle (Calmore Sports) 12, Tony Richman (Paultons) 12, Will Smith (Fawley) 12, Tom Allam (Tichborne Park) 12, Rob Pittman (South Wilts) 12, Christian Pain



Michael Porter.

(South Wilts II) 12.

Wicket-keeping: Kieran Earl (Fawley) 11, Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 9, Ben Draper (South Wilts II), 12, Simon Ennew (Paultons) 12.

Division 3

Batting: Paul Hawkins (St Cross Symondians II) 319, Mike Ruffell (Gosport Borough) 301, Andrew Gallirs (Havant II) 280, Tom Hockenhull (Fair Oak) 251, Ed Kemp (Fair Oak) 236.

Bowling: Conor Regan (Gosport Borough) 14, David Orchard (St Cross Symondians II) 12, Asad Abbas (Fair Oak) 12, Bobby Dyer (Havant II) 12.

Wicket-keeping: Richard Featherstone (Fair Oak) 10, Conor Moors (Lymington II) 7.

● Don't miss Mike Vimpany's Southern Premier reports in the *Daily Echo* every Monday and Tuesday.

There he was in person, right in front of us, a bundle of energy as he played up to a crowd ideally suited to him.

There was only one pairing we wanted to win, and Graf and Leconte were able to recite the script in the way Jimmy Connors was unable to.

"It turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and successful days in the history of The Championships. It was splendid in every way."

Those words belonged to Chris Gorringe, too. And he was right. It was splendid, Chris. I felt honoured and privileged to have been part of it.

All these years on, I still do. I have never been back to Wimbledon, for fear of the experience diluting my memories of the first Middle Sunday. And I never will.

'Boom Boom Boris' - possessing an exocet of a serve and the bravery, some would say foolishness, of a youngster who knew no fear.

The 1980s were such a great era for serve and volleyers at SW19

from page 27

In an instant, Leconte has read it, scampered to his left and, without breaking stride, creams a forehand down the line with a stunned Lendl nowhere near it.

It is one of my favourite tennis shots of all time, and beautifully summed up the result - a victory for Gallic flair over eastern European power and organisation.

The free market triumphant over the constricting tentacles of communism. Well, something like that!

This was tennis at its finest, and the 80s were a great decade for characters, for flair.

McEnroe, a magician with a racket instead of a wand. A wooden racket, too, none of these carbon fibre ones which would eventually become commonplace.

Edberg Pat Cash, Leconte - like McEnroe, all great serve and volleyers on their day, just with a better attitude that

Throwing himself around the court, on his backhand and forehand, he quickly won our hearts.

I cheered the likes of McEnroe, Edberg, Cash, Leconte, Becker. The serve and volleyers.

Cash had a great headband that now possesses an ironic status, and he climbed into the crowd after winning Wimbledon in 1987 to embrace his family.

Everyone does this now, as a matter of course. But Pat Cash was the first, and Pat Cash was the best.

I wanted Henri Leconte to win Wimbledon, but he was never remotely good enough to do that.

He had all the shots in his locker - Lendl will testify to that - but it would invariably be a case of 'if only' with Henri.

We still loved him, though. Even though he was French. That is why we cheered him to the rafters on Middle Sunday, July 10 1991.



Rain at Wimbledon.

didn't suggest as if they were forever battling personal demons in the mind as well as the bloke standing on the other side of the net.

There were others, too, playing a different game.

Connors - great baseliner, happy to slug it out, wonderful returner of serve. Lendl, the epitome of Iron Curtain discipline. Forever tapping his shoes with his racket when playing on clay, a mannerism that made my gran's blood boil. My gran liked tennis, but hated Ivan Lendl.

Then there was a boy who ripped up the record books, as well as the rule book, in 1985.

Boris Becker was just 17 when he won Wimbledon. The first unseeded player ever to win. The youngest player ever to win. Heavens, he was even younger than the person who won junior Wimbledon that year!

'Boom Boom Boris' - possessing an exocet of a serve and the bravery, some would say foolishness, of a youngster who knew no fear.

Isle of Wight CB playing MCC in annual clash

The Isle of Wight CB plays the MCC in the annual 50-over Keith Newbery Memorial Trophy fixture at Newclose on Wednesday, 11am.

IWCB:

Hugh Calloway, Rob Snell, Josh Procter, Matt Webb, Toby Corbin, Alex Glendenning, Tom Dye, Gary Cooper,

Kevin Cooper, Jack Winterbottom, Alex Horton.

The match is sponsored by Leslies Motors of Cowes, backers of the Isle of Wight Cricket League.

● New Forest clubs are hoping for a break in the weather to get their rain-

delayed President's Cup semi-final ties played.

Calmore Sports are due to host New Milton at Loperwood Park on Sunday afternoon (3pm), with Bashley (Rydal) entertaining Lymington on Monday evening.

The final is at the BCG on Friday, 6pm.



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SOlotto.uk

supporting local jobs and good causes

Southampton and the SO postcode now has its very own not-for-profit lottery, **SOlotto**, which will focus on job creation and providing funds for good causes in the region.

SOlotto offers win-win benefits for people in the SO postcode. Players will have a chance to win cash prizes of up to £50,000, but will also be putting money back into the community', says Trevor Thorne, who has launched the lottery with the backing of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Opportunity Society.

SOlotto is based on the very successful Isle of Wight Lottery which recently celebrated its

15th anniversary. Started in 2001, the lottery has created nearly 2,500 jobs and given out two million pounds in prize money to the island community.

SOlotto can be played either by buying scratch cards from newsagents and other retailers in the area, or by signing up online to a weekly lottery.

The SOlotto Weekly lottery will run once 5,000 people have entered. What's more, SOlotto prizes will be guaranteed meaning that there will always be a jackpot winner winning amounts up to **£50,000** each week. SOlotto scratch cards offer a 1 in 5 chance of winning prizes of up to **£5,000**.



Scratch Card Winner

70% of the proceeds from every scratch card and 60% from every SOlotto Weekly entry will be given to winners, sellers and good causes - a much higher percentage than most lotteries. Retailers will also have a say as to which local charity they would like to support. For example, Highfield News in Southampton is selling scratch cards to support the Hampshire Air Ambulance.

SOlotto scratch cards will also be on sale at events and festivals over the summer including the Mela Festival being held in Hoglands Park, Southampton on 16th July with the proceeds going to support Art Asia.

SOlotto.uk

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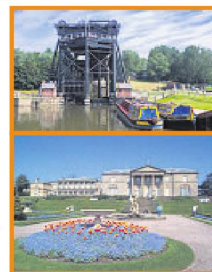
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Kelly leaves Whites after failing to agree deal



ADAM Kelly has left Southern League new boys Salisbury after failing to agree a new deal.

The ex-Winchester City and Bashley midfielder – pictured right of picture with Kane O'Keefe – returned to the Ray Mac in February after a spell with Weymouth.

He notched up 13 appearances and scored two goals, one of which came in the home victory over Horndean which clinched Steve Claridge's Whites the Sydenhams Premier title.

A Salisbury statement said: "The club would like to thank Adam for his service and

his role in the winning of the Sydenhams Wessex League championship and wishes him well in the future."

Kelly himself released a statement on Twitter expressing his disappointment at leaving.

Thank

He said: "Unfortunately, I've been unable to strike a deal with Steve Claridge to remain at the Ray Mac for next season.

"I'd like to thank all the players and staff for making me feel so welcome during my short return.

"I genuinely feel honoured to be part of the club's inaugural season and play a small part in helping the team win the league during their first season.

"Good luck to all involved with the club for next season and beyond, disappointed I won't be part of the journey."

Kelly, head of academy sports science at Exeter City FC, made 77 appearances and netted 14 times for the old Salisbury City club in a two-year spell.

● More non league football inside – see pages 16-22.

Newly-promoted Oxford snap up ex-Saint Martin

AARON Martin has signed a two-year deal for League One new boys Oxford United.

The former Saints and Eastleigh defender was snapped up by U's boss Michael Appleton who admitted to being surprised the 26-year-old had been released by Coventry City in May.

Tony Mowbray, manager of the Sky Blues, said the decision to let Martin go had been a tough one but he had done it because he was looking for a more physical-style defender.

Martin, who was born on the Isle of Wight and grew up in Southampton, was not short on offers but the style Appleton wants United to play swung it in their favour.

Martin said: "I like to bring the ball out from the back. He (Appleton) has seen that from me last year – that was a massive thing for me and is what made my mind up really.

Surprised

"If you ask a lot of the Coventry fans I think they were quite surprised that the decision (to release me) came along.

"I think this summer has shown I've had a good season because I did have a lot of options, but I chose to come here and work hard.

"I will give everything and hope we get promoted."

Martin was handed his first taste of senior football by former Eastleigh boss Ian Baird before getting his professional break with Southampton in 2009 during Alan Pardew's time in charge at St Mary's.

Martin made his professional debut for Saints in the penultimate game of the 2009/10 League 1 season at Gillingham. He made his home debut the following week against Southend.

He played eight times in the league



Aaron Martin celebrates his goal for Saints at Coventry in 2012

as Saints won promotion from League 1 in 2010/11, and a further 10 times in the Championship promotion campaign 12 months later.

He scored his first Saints goal in an FA Cup win at Coventry in January 2012, and a few weeks later netted in a 4-0 home win over Derby.

After loan spells with Salisbury City, Crystal Palace and Coventry, his Saints contract was ended by mutual consent in January 2014.

Stays with Birmingham City and Yeovil Town followed before he penned an 18-month contract for Coventry in January last year.



Town add attacker let go by Reading

BASINGSTOKE Town have added some extra firepower to their Southern Premier Division squad with the signing of Sam Deadfield.

The attack-minded ex-Reading youngster was at Beaconsfield in the Southern League Division One Central last season.

Previously he was a scholar at Birmingham City and played in the Blues under-18s' 3-2 victory over Liverpool in the last eight of the FA Youth Cup.

Versatile

Town boss Terry Brown said of the 19-year-old:

"Sam is a very versatile player and can play on the left up front, in the hole, left midfield or even left-back. This makes him a great addition to the team.

"I think at his age you don't need to pigeon-hole players as for sure he has a very good left foot.

"He's probably one of the brightest little jewels Reading have let go in the past three or four years.

"Because of his physical presence, he didn't make it, but he's filled out a bit, grown up a lot and has now developed into a player who can play a number of positions well."

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Sam Deadfield

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Smith 'a major coup' for Hamworthy, says boss



DURING his free-scoring days with Poole Town, Steve Smith made life a misery for many a Wessex League defender.

Now the former Dolphins hot-shot – right of picture – is back on the Sydenhams Premier beat with Hamworthy United.

Smith, who netted ten times for Western Premier outfit Gillingham Town last term, plundered more than 120 goals across four years while in the Wessex League at Tatnam.

And new Hammers boss Carl Poore knows at first hand just how dangerous he can be, having played with him at Poole.

"It's a major coup for us," said Poore, who captained that all-conquering Dolphins side.

"He has experience of Wessex League football as well as scoring plenty of goals in a different league for Gillingham.

"He will give us that bit of know-how you need when things get tough, as they tend to

do at this level. Just as importantly, he is a great character to have around the place."

Karl Yelland is back at the County Ground, having made just six appearances for Bemerton Heath last season and the Hammers have also signed Ryan Dovell, who mixed his playing duties with some coaching at Bridport last season.

Meanwhile, Matt Kemble and Kane Daysh have both agreed terms.